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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS

1958

*"I am the true Vine, you are its branches;
if a man lives on in Me, and I in him,
then he will yield abundant fruit."*

JOHN 15. 5.

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PART I.

INTRODUCTION

It was in 1939 that the National Catholic Rural Movement "put its hand to the plough" with the resolve that through prayer, deliberations and work, it would strive for "the inauguration of a new era in the agricultural history of Australia, the spiritual uplift of the man on the land, the restoration of all things in Christ".

His Lordship, Most Reverend F. A. Henschke, D.D., Bishop of Wagga Wagga (N.S.W.) was appointed by the Hierarchy as the first Episcopal Chairman, and he has remained so.

The Bishops in their Statement on Catholic Action (1947), declared:

"The task of the Rural Movement is vast in extent and overwhelming in importance. The success of the Rural Movement is the condition of the success of all Catholic Action. The failure of the Rural Movement would mean the ultimate failure of Catholic Action, whatever might be the successes gained in other fields".

At the time of the National Catholic Rural Movement's inception. Australian agriculture was in decline. The breakdown of rural life and the consequent growth of the capital cities offered a challenge to the Church. On the one hand, farming was beset with many problems: debt, poor seasons, lack of amenities, restrictions on credit, all of which combined to make rural life unattractive. Alternatively, Catholic families moving to the city very often had to face inadequate housing and moral dangers that so frequently led to the loss of the Faith.

Since the Church has always advocated a balanced agriculture as an indispensable basis of Society, the problem of restoring and developing Agriculture could not be ignored. The big cities, then as now, offered a grave threat to Australia's proper development. Decline in the birth rate, increase in birth control, reduction in living standards and decline in religious belief and practice are all consequences of the "City-State" pattern.

The Church's answer to these problems was the National Catholic Rural Movement.

The aims and objects, set out in the National Catholic Rural Movement's Constitution, explain what the organisation attempts to do.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES.

The general objectives of the N.C.R.M. are as follows:—

- (a) The restoration to the members of the Catholic rural community of a sense of their dignity as such and of the esteem in which the Catholic Faith holds the man on the land.
- (b) To bring country Catholics together so that they may discuss the difficulties which militate against the prosperity and stability of the rural communities.
- (c) To analyse these difficulties in the light of Christian principles and to see what practical remedies are suggested by those Christian principles.

- (d) To infuse into country Catholics the determination to work out practical remedies for those difficulties and practical plans for arresting the drift to the cities and restoring more people to country districts, and for strengthening rural industry in its primary, secondary and tertiary aspects, thus forming a truly Christian rural society.
- (e) To collaborate with other people and organisations advocating sound measures to assist in the reconstruction of rural life.

PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES.

The particular objectives of the N.C.R.M. are as follows:—

- (a) To assist in securing better conditions of life and work in rural areas and a just recompense for the vital economic and social services rendered by the rural population to the whole community. These objectives are to be secured by the spread of such institutions as rural co-operatives, credit unions, community farm settlements, rural education, co-operative rural medical services and whatever other means are appropriate to these ends.
- (b) To encourage and assist the rural population to obtain such technical knowledge, skill and craftsmanship as will be of use to them in their respective callings; to assist in promoting improved methods of agricultural production and marketing, a higher standard of proficiency in domestic economy and the increased practice of rural crafts and industries as part of a constructive policy of regionalism.
- (c) To form a well-instructed urban public opinion concerning the problems of rural life and the importance of these problems to the community as a whole, and to secure the co-operation of urban consumers in solving such problems and in promoting the primary aims of the N.C.R.M.
- (d) To carry out the general work of Christian Social Action within the rural community.

In carrying out these objectives, a vast field of policy has been developed in solving the problems of the land in accordance with Christian principles. This policy forms the basis for the reconstruction of Australia's rural life, which is advanced as a practical programme of action by the N.C.R.M.

This programme revolves around eight policies, viz.:—

- Decentralisation
- Migration
- Land Settlement
- Strong Rural Communities
- Education for Country Living
- Strong Family Life
- Co-operatives
- Scientific Farming

This handbook is meant primarily as a Training Manual and a guide to action for members of the N.C.R.M. actively engaged in the Apostolate of the countryside. By describing and illustrating those techniques of the Lay Apostolate, worked out and perfected over the years by trial and error, which have proved most successful, it is hoped that N.C.R.M. members, groups and regions everywhere will find inspiration and courage for the task ahead.

The National Catholic Rural Movement is indebted to Mr. John Traill, B.A., for the original draft of this Handbook, which embodied the fruits of his varied experience as National Organising Secretary over the years 1953-1955. The final document incorporates suggestions by Regional Councils, Chaplains, and other members of National Headquarters staff.

CHAPTER I.

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CHURCH'S DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

The story of the growth of Catholicism in Australia from small but virile beginnings is a record of the way in which the men and women—religious and laity—who make up the Church have come to realize the opportunities which Almighty God has given them, and they have succeeded in proportion as they faced up to those challenges.

If Catholics are to grasp some idea of the destiny which lies before the Church in this country, a study of the historical background in which Catholicism has grown is essential. From the facts of history, we can not only determine the influences that have been at work in the past, but we can understand much more readily the present challenges facing the Church and direct our energies to the task of Christianising society.

The degree of Secularization which now exists in the Australian community is a limiting factor working against the spread of Christianity. The present secular society exerts "social pressures" on the family that make the practice of the Moral Law difficult, if not at times even heroic.

Consideration must be given to the four major divisions into which the Lay Apostolate falls in this country, in an endeavour to formulate a rational synthesis in which would be embraced all those forms of the Apostolate which have Hierarchical approval.

THE BACKGROUND OF HISTORY.

The salient facts of the history of Australian Catholicism are classified as follows:—

- (1) The geographical setting of the Australian continent, which projected Australia into an Asian, rather than into a European environment, and therefore dictated its future missionary activity.
- (2) The fact that Australia was discovered by the English and not by a Spanish explorer like DeQuiros or Magellan, thus determining that Australia would not be an outpost of Spanish Catholicism, but a Protestant community with a Catholic minority.
- (3) The penal laws and the transportation system, which ensured that the Catholic minority would be large in numbers, and driven to a religious and social cohesion by the fact of persecution.
- (4) The close connection between Australian Catholicism and the general movement for the liberation of the working-class which was under way throughout the nineteenth century: such men as Peter Lalor, Timothy Hayes and Fr. Smyth at Eureka; Charles Gavan Duffy in the Land Reform League; the Catholic trade unionists who were behind William Spence and William Lane in the establishment of Australian trade unionism; the stand taken by Cardinal Moran on behalf of the maritime strikers in 1890. These had ensured that Australian Catholicism would be closely associated with the aspirations of the working class at a moment when historical forces were driving European Catholicism into a position in opposition to the Social Democratic parties.

- (5) The fact that both in the 19th and 20th centuries Australian Catholicism had to fight two great battles in the civic order—the battle for the rights of parents in education in the 19th century; and to undertake a large part of the burden of the fight against Communism in the trade unions in the 20th century. These facts had made Australian Catholicism a great civic force, and not a purely sectional denomination.
- (6) The violent upheavals of the Second World War which had landed millions of Europeans into overseas countries. This movement towards migration, if the migrants were properly integrated into the Australian community, could give Catholicism the numbers which at present it lacked, and make Australia into a great Christian bulwark in the south-west Pacific.
- (7) The fact that the development of Catholicism in Australia had come at the precise moment when the national movements in various Asian countries had liberated themselves from European control. The diminished opportunities of European missionaries in these areas and the suspicion of the United States, sedulously fostered by Communist propaganda, would be likely to leave a Christian vacuum in Asia, unless Australian Catholicism recognised its historic responsibilities and moved to stop the gap.

SECULARIZATION.

An analysis of the concept of secularization shows the secularized society in which we live is one in which every major institution of modern life, accepted as a normal accompaniment of "gracious living", reflects one or other of the seven deadly sins. The real issue concerning secularization is not that men are prone to sin—that would be true of men living in any civilization—but that we regard as normal a state of society based upon a total inversion of every Christian value. Catholics are hardly distinct from the rest of the community in this regard.

FOUR MAJOR DIVISIONS.

Finally, the varying forms of the Apostolate now being exercised by different sections of the Catholic community in Australia may be summarised under the following heads:—

- (a) The "direct" apostolate, aiming at the direct conversion of the thoughtful minority who could be interested in religion and in the supernatural law;
- (b) The apostolate of "ideas, habits and customs", by which an endeavour is made to influence in a Christian direction the non-Christian masses who so far are not feeling any hunger for religion. The only common experience behind the Catholic Apostle and his non-Christian contact is on the human level of work, play, family life, economic ties, etc. It is an indispensable adjunct to the work of direct conversion that the non-Christian should be led to accept the natural law in relation to each of these subject matters, until he or his children are ready to embrace the supernatural law.
- (c) The apostolate of "conditions". Here reference must be made to the future development of Australia, particularly in the great developmental areas which are as yet bare of population—the Murray Valley, New England, North and Central Queensland, and

so on. It is still possible to determine the social forms based upon the small farm, the small business enterprise, the small town, in which the institution of the family and religion alike flourished. There is no need for over-industrialization to develop in these areas as it has in the great metropolitan cities.

Over-industrialization is the deadly enemy of the religious influence. By strong action in representative organizations today, the development of these new regions under the impact of the three forces of power, water and people can give Australia social foundations in which all the mistakes of the last century can be obliterated.

- (d) Lastly, there must be a place for apostolic Catholics in the battle to keep open the gates so that the other forms of the apostolate can be exercised. If totalitarian forces seize control of the country, to attempt the work of conversion will be a one-way passport to a concentration camp.

The blood of martyrs is not always the seed of the Church. The magnificent Catholicism of North Africa in the first four centuries of the Church has been completely blotted out because Catholicism was unable to stand up to the military forces of Islam. In 1400 years, Christianity has not been able to revive.

This great work of the Christianizing of Australia calls for harmonious co-operation between all elements of the apostolate which are so different in kind that they call for people of different temperaments and different capabilities. If the end of the apostolate is Charity, so charity is also its indispensable means.

CHAPTER II.

THE ROLE OF THE N.C.R.M. IN THE LAY APOSTOLATE.

The most fundamental point about the N.C.R.M. is that it is an organisation of religious inspiration, with religious objectives, devoted to all aspects of the development of the countryside. It is a work of the Church and is dependent on the mission of the Church which, quite simply, is the salvation of souls. The Church's purpose is clear, and it is always limited to that objective.

Now, why is it that an organisation so constituted should engage in the promotion of rural affairs, which is a factor in the temporal order? Is there any job for the N.C.R.M. to do?

The task of the Rural Movement is to create a balanced rural-urban pattern in Australian society, based on the standard of Social Justice.

The reason for this concern with a material and temporal matter can best be explained by considering the findings of a Gallup Poll which endeavoured to trace the degree of religious practice in the Australian community. The important point arising in regard to Catholics was the fact that about 60% practise their religion. Further reasearch into the question revealed that this was not a stable percentage throughout rural and urban areas in Australia.

THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH.

In the Diocese of Port Pirie in South Australia, which includes both heavily industrialized and rural centres, it was found that in the town of Whyalla, a heavily industrialized centre, only 48% of its Catholic people practised their faith, whereas in the rural parishes proper the proportion was anything between 80-90% and generally over 90%. The enquiry was carried further, and it was shown that this was a true proportion in practically every Diocese of Australia—Roughly a two to one degree of religious practice according to the environment in which people lived: in a heavily industrialized metropolis, 40 to 45 or 48% of religious practice, and in a rural area 80 to 90% of religious practice.

The enquiry went further than Australia. The Archbishop of Bilbao, a mining and rural diocese in the north of Spain, took a scientific census of his Diocese in conjunction with the Bureau of Census and Statistics of Madrid. The results, which were published in "L'Osservatore Romano", revealed that in the mining and industrial parishes of the Diocese, 33% of the Catholic people practised their faith, and in the rural areas the proportion was 66%. The figures were lower than in Australia, but the proportion of two to one was still stable and stationary.

A number of Bishops in Italy carried out similar enquiries, and again the result was the same, namely, that the degree of religious practice varied inversely with the growth of a rural parish to a metropolitan area.

In these alarming facts lies the fundamental religious reason for the existence of the N.C.R.M. In a certain structure of society, founded upon the small family farm, the small industry, the small town, and the small governmental unit, there religion flourishes at

its maximum. It is impossible to achieve a figure of 100%, for there is of course always the question of human and personal frailty; but, if it were possible for us consciously and deliberately to create a structure of society in which religion would flourish, it would be precisely that type of structure just outlined and not the heavily industrialized metropolis which is on the march in Australia today. The reason for that phenomenon is that in such a society the family as an institution flourishes, whereas in the industrial metropolis, it does not flourish.

Those who earn a living on the land realise that the family farm is an economic proposition, that children are an economic asset to the farm, whereas they are an economic liability in the city. It is fundamentally proved that where the family flourishes economically, there is a pre-disposition for it to flourish in all other directions as well. Where the family is strong, religion is strong, and where the family is weak, almost with a certain determinism, religion will be weak. However hard bishops and priests and people may work.

Therefore, all of the effort that has been poured, and please God will continue to be poured, into the building up of such a structure of society in Australia, when the whole tide is completely against us, is not only a national effort but it is a real apostolate. It is not only apostolic action to convert an individual; to help him to become a little better than he was. To create the basic structures of society in which men as a whole will live closer to God is apostolic action of the highest order. That is the basis of our faith in the N.C.R.M. and the reason added to national motives, why every effort which has been expended over the years is justified, not once but many times, and why that effort must be continued.

GROUP ACTION.

You may well judge the effectiveness of your own work and the effectiveness of your Group by certain standards of action. There are certain definite functions which every Group should fulfil if it is operating at 100% efficiency; specifically there are five standards which we hold to be necessary in our judgment of the effectiveness of every Group. Do not be discouraged if your Group does not add up 100% to all of these things, but let these tests at least be the standard.

What then should the Rural Group be? It is submitted that it should be five things:—

(1) A Centre of Education:

By that is meant not the education of youth, which should be left to those who are much more competent, but a centre of education of adults in the real issues of the present day, such as international affairs, immigration problems, rural problems—all of those things which will determine the fate of our nation.

The Rural Group, therefore, is the permeating influence which should exist to convince the people of the parish and of the district of the true facts of the crisis which faces the Church and the country today.

It should be a source of education in another sense in helping people to choose between the competing systems of agriculture which are put before the Australian people for their approval or disapproval. These are three in number:—

Firstly, there is the extensive, more or less capitalistic, system of agriculture which is traditional in Australia and which seems to be increasing.

Secondly, there is the collectivist ideal of agriculture which is propagated by the Communists and the Leftists.

Thirdly, there is the type of agriculture founded upon the family farm, with intensive and diversified production which has proved the basis of agriculture of Western Europe for 1500 years.

Those are the three issues which agitate or should agitate the minds of people concerned with building the rural future of Australia.

One of the tests of the effectiveness of a group is how far those forms of education and information are spreading from the Group and permeating the whole district.

(2) A Centre of Settlement:

Fundamentally, we aim to put more people on the land, indirectly and directly, and here the Group has a definite responsibility. Intensive efforts are being made in the N.C.R.M. today to attract more "new" as well as "old" Australians to rural pursuits. Every single Group has a direct personal responsibility in that regard despite all the difficulties, which are manifold, and the disappointments, which are worse.

The Group has a further duty when it is acting as a centre of settlement. It must be realised that the areas in Australia which are capable of intensive development are relatively small in proportion to the total expanse of Australia, and that the areas where soil, climate and rainfall come in conjunction to allow intensification are relatively few. Therefore, all of those processes that teach people to intensify and diversify production are indirectly helping our objective of settling more people on the land.

We have at our disposal all of the facilities of the highly technical services provided by State and Federal governments. To act as the agency where others fail to bring a knowledge of those technical processes to its district remains a responsibility of the Rural Group.

(3) A Centre of Community Action:

By this is meant that the function of the Group is to be the centre and the propagating force of a living community centre, of a living township, in the middle of the rural area. Man does not live by bread alone, and it was not only the economic problem — the fact that farmers did not get an adequate return for their efforts — which caused the flight from the land before the beginning of the Second World War. It was also the lack of amenities in the country districts and townships. The provision of roads, communications, churches, schools, libraries, medical facilities, centres of recreation and of culture — all of those things are intrinsically necessary if the young people are to be held, and it is not much good bringing new people on the land if the young ones cannot be held.

Who is responsible for carrying out these things?

Shire Councils, political organisations, organisations of farmers, local government bodies, have the power and resources. The task of the Rural Group should be to energise the local government and institutional bodies to move in that direction, and if those moves do not succeed then the Group, insofar as it can, should help through co-operatives of various types to provide the necessary amenities and facilities.

(4) A Centre of Training for Activity in Public Organisations:

This standard for the Group requires trained men and women for representative activity in public organisations. In the last analysis, we can talk about the land and the expansion of agriculture, but we will get nowhere unless we deal with the vital problem of investment of public funds in the agricultural sector of the community.

Each year, Melbourne grows by more than 40,000 people. In order to house them, to give them work, Churches, schools, communications, amenities and so on, involves an investment in the greater Melbourne area of some £100 million. In other words, each year we add to Melbourne a town the size of Ballarat, which requires an investment of this tremendous amount of capital. The capital resources of this country are very limited even allowing for increased Savings. We have come to rely on overseas investors for a considerable proportion of our annual investment funds and a choice must be made as how this money is used.

If those resources are used in developing a greater Melbourne or a greater Sydney, they will not be used in developing Albury or Wagga or Portland, or the surrounding agricultural hinterland. If there are no trained men and women who can act through the agencies which mould public opinion—such as primary producers' organisations, and ultimately political parties—and who can put the case for investment in the land, then our work will end up in a great deal of talk but no action.

The test of success is the deliberation with which we seek the investment of public funds in the development of agriculture and its ancillary industries.

(5) A Centre of Spiritual Training.

The Group has the fundamental task of instilling in its members a deep conviction of their vocation as farmers, of their apostolate to the land and to the man and woman of the land, and of the universal charity which underlies all their efforts.

SUMMARY.

The five standards of an effectively functioning group are:—

- (1) To act as the centre of education for all of the people in the district;
- (2) To act as a centre of settlement by directly bringing people to the district and indirectly by helping the technical processes that in the long run bring about settlement;
- (3) To act as the energising force in building a strong local town through Shire Council and similar bodies;
- (4) To train men and women for representative action in the public field;
- (5) To develop the spirituality of members.

CHAPTER III.

SUMMARY OF N.C.R.M. POLICY.

- I. DECENTRALISATION
- II. MIGRATION
- III. LAND SETTLEMENT
- IV. STRONG RURAL COMMUNITIES
- V. EDUCATION FOR COUNTRY LIVING
- VI. STRONG FAMILY LIFE
- VII. CO-OPERATIVES
- VIII. SCIENTIFIC FARMING
- IX. THINGS WE DO NOT STAND FOR

In the process of reconciling Christian social principles with the problems of social, agricultural and economic trends, a substantial body of policy has been evolved by the N.C.R.M. These policies form the basis of action for all Groups and Regional Councils.

As a guide to policy, this Chapter emphasises the problem of Decentralisation, because if any one word can be said to summarise the policies of the N.C.R.M., it is Decentralisation.

I. DECENTRALISATION

A Definition:

Decentralisation means more than the disposition of our economic resources. In its full sense, decentralisation means a society in which man is enabled to provide for his spiritual, cultural, economic, political and social needs; and, in which he can develop and safeguard his country as a free Christian nation.

The material characteristics of such a society would include the balanced distribution of population, industry, and social, political and administrative institutions throughout the country in accordance with the pattern of resources, with Working Proprietorship and Co-operation the norm of economic ownership and control.

Australia's post-war decentralisation achievements measure up poorly to this standard. The establishment of country branches of large city firms to exploit local labour supplies; the concentration of migrants in the capital cities and chief industrial centres; the non-development of large natural resources are not the characteristics of sound decentralisation. Over 60% of our total population lives in the capital cities and major industrial areas, and the proportion is increasing. Yet successive Commonwealth and State Governments have boasted of what they have done to promote decentralisation.

The N.C.R.M. views seriously these trends. However, we cannot give a lead in this matter unless we understand the nature of the problem and its relevance to present conditions and the future of Australia. The subject involves the aspects of (a) economic resources and their use, and the organization of industry; (b) migration; (c) political and administrative; (d) defence; (e) cultural and sociological; (f) spiritual.

Why has so little progress towards real decentralisation been made since the war despite the verbal support given by successive Governments? The answer is partly a lack of understanding of the problem, partly the play of vested industrial interests (managerial and unionist) and of vested rural interests: partly the pressure of urban populations.

Principles.

We believe that the principles relating to decentralisation are:—

- (1) The primary principle of Christian Ethics and Christian Politics must be the respect for every person simply as a person.
- (2) The first aim of social progress must be to give the fullest possible scope for the exercise of all powers and qualities which are distinctly personal, and of these the most fundamental is deliberate choice.
- (3) A system of widespread private property in the means of production is the essential economic basis of this freedom in individuals and families.
- (4) A pluralistic division of powers between Commonwealth, States, municipalities and industrial authorities is the political complement of such a moral principle.

In applying these principles, the first challenge to the social philosophy of Decentralism must be met in the field of economics. The whole modern experience of industrialised societies with their seemingly inevitable drift to monopoly seems to belie the principles which we have tried to explain. Have we not all experienced a sense of helplessness in face of the concentration of economic power in the United States, which was described as early as 1932 by Berle and Means in their pioneering work, "The Modern Corporation and Private Property"? Had not this degree of concentration grown greatly by 1938, when it was investigated by the Temporary National Economic Committee, and has it not since increased? Have we not witnessed the seeming helplessness of the U.S. Senate's anti-trust committee in recent times as it shapes up to the problems posed by giant corporations, such as Du Pont and General Motors?

Working Proprietors.

In the face of the massive panoply and power of monopoly, surely it is time for the economic decentralists to abandon all hope and reconcile themselves to the increasing size of modern business?

The answer, of course, is "No". If the concentration of economic power is wrong, in terms of the principles we have defined, it must be fought.

At the Census taken on 30th June, 1954, we had in the work-force a total of 3,700,000 people maintaining another 5,300,000 who were not in the work-force. Of the 3.7 million workers, 660,000 or 18% were still working proprietors. The proportion had declined by 1% since 1947, but it is important to realise that even today, despite all the factors making for monopoly, roughly one-fifth of Australia's breadwinners are still more or less masters of their own economic destiny.

The question before us is whether this proportion can be increased without seriously injuring economic efficiency.

Scope for Owners.

The breadwinners of Australia are employed in one or other of three types of industry — primary industry or agriculture; secondary industry or manufacture; tertiary or the service industries. To what degree is the big unit technically indispensable in each of these fields?

In almost all phases of agriculture, which employs, roughly, half-a-million workers, the highly capitalised company is, or should be, irrelevant. In this field, family ownership should and could quite easily be the dominant institution. Two partial exceptions are the sheep and meat industries. Even here, however, the citadel of bigness is being assailed. Pasture improvement in medium and high rainfall areas is constantly reducing the minimum area for an economically efficient sheep-

farm. The present overseas demand for high quality beef and the worrying slackness in demand for lesser quality Australian beef indicates that it may be much wiser to extend beef production on the relatively small holdings of regions like Gippsland than on the huge company-owned runs of Queensland and the Northern Territory. Furthermore, if we are sensible and seriously attempt to expand our export of primary products, rather than embark on the wild-goose chase of endeavouring to export manufactured goods, the proportion of our work-force engaged in agriculture can be increased to some extent at least.

The extension of the agricultural sector of the economy and the intensification of production are two methods by which working proprietorship can be extended.

Service Industries.

A reference to Colin Clark's thesis (in his "Property and Economic Progress") of the connection between working proprietorship and the tertiary or "service" industries gives grounds for much greater hope than is apparent on the surface.

"To think that the great majority of those who are not engaged in agriculture must therefore be engaged in manufacturing industry is a serious error. A large and increasing proportion are engaged in trade, building, transport, garages, hotels, entertainment, professions and the like, for just as the proportion engaged in agriculture declines with the advancing wealth of the community, a time also comes when manufacture, too, employs a declining proportion of the working population, giving place to this group of what are generally known as 'service industries'. In most of these service industries large-scale organisation is the exception rather than the rule and the working proprietor again comes into his own".

Mr. Clark points out that as manufacturing becomes more efficient it tends to employ a smaller and smaller proportion of the working population. For instance, 26% of the U.S. work-force was engaged in manufacture in 1920, but only 22% in 1940.

The nation, as a whole, and the trade union movement in particular, are faced with new problems arising from the development of automation. One aspect which should not be forgotten is this: automation will reduce the proportion of the working population engaged in manufacture. A wise economic policy will absorb those who are displaced in primary, but mainly tertiary, industry in which working proprietorship and the small unit are feasible over a wide range.

Ownership v. Control.

A natural reaction on the part of the impatient reader might be to remark that industry is becoming more, not less, monopolistic, and that there must be some technical reason for it.

There is a reason, but, in our submission, it is not a technical one.

In endeavouring to explain what seems to be the real reason for the growth of monopoly and the concentration of economic power in general, we want to make it clear that we repudiate the implication lying behind the assertions of bodies like the Brookings Institute of U.S.A. and the Institute of Public Affairs in Victoria, which frequently imply that ownership is becoming more widespread. For instance, the "I.P.A." Review" (July-September, 1953, p. 71) said:

"The Capitalism of today is a people's capitalism. Of 3½ million people engaged in Australian industry, ½ million, or one in every seven, own shares in public companies and thus participate in their profits. A substantial proportion of these are ordinary wage and salary earners".

Through various media, we have witnessed, in recent years, a much wider spread of share-holdings in Australian and indeed in American industry. But there is all the difference in the world between a wide spread of share holding and a wide spread of ownership of productive property as it is understood in Christian thinking.

To illustrate our point, may we refer again to "The Modern Corporation and Private Property", which was published in 1932 by Berle and Means, of Columbia University's Faculty of Law. Speaking of the changed nature of ownership under the modern corporate structure, in which the public company has become the characteristic operator in economic life, they say:

"Outwardly, the change is simple enough. Men are less likely to own the physical instruments of production. They are more likely to own pieces of paper, loosely known as stocks, bonds, and other securities, which have become mobile through the machinery of the public markets. Beneath this, however, lies a more fundamental shift. Physical control over the instruments of production has been surrendered in ever-growing degree to centralised groups who manage property in bulk, supposedly, but by no means necessarily, for the benefit of the security holders.

"Control of physical assets has passed from the individual owner to those who direct the quasi-public institutions, while the owner retains an interest in their product and increase.

"There has resulted the dissolution of the old atom of ownership into its component parts, control and beneficial ownership.

"This dissolution of the atom of property destroys the very foundation on which the economic order of the past three centuries has rested".

Legal Aspects.

We submit that the main reason for concentration of ownership is not technical efficiency, at all; that it rests not in the facts of engineering or of economics but in a legal fiction—the legal fiction which attributes legal personality to a chance collection of men and women, pooling their capital for private profit, and placing their pooled capital under the control of that group peculiar to the twentieth century, whom James Burnham has called "the managers".

Lippman holds that corporate concentration is not morally evil, but that it is opposed to the genius of modern scientific method. He declares:

"It is a matter of common knowledge that beyond a certain point increasing size yields a diminishing return, that many of the biggest corporations are too big to be well managed, and that they become rigid and opposed to change. There is sound reason for thinking that the laws which foster concentrated control are, from the point of view of technological progress, reactionary; that they retard it rather than promote it; and that industrial laws suited to the genius of modern technology would vary in important respects from the laws which exist. Laws adapted to modern technology would almost certainly seek to discountenance a scale of production beyond the point of technical efficiency, to discourage concentrated control which weakens the incentives, destroys the objective criteria of the competitive market; they would seek to prevent the erection of great and rigid capital structures which make technical change ruinously expensive".

Socialisation.

The Catholic social thinker therefore believes in fighting concentration tooth and nail in the ever-widening sectors of economic life in which it is technically unnecessary. In those restricted fields in which

ownership has outgrown the individual, he has no objection to frank socialisation. No objection, that is to say, if the word "socialisation" is properly understood. It does not mean "nationalisation", which is only one of its forms and the one least to be recommended. It includes municipal ownership and operation of certain public services; it includes the conduct of utilities by Public Corporations like the State Electricity Commission; or even co-operative societies like those developed in Italy for road and rail construction; in Poland for electrical engineering; and in Germany for manufacture of optical goods, for instance, by the Zeiss Company.

It would require another book to deal with the application of decentralist principles to the problems of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, in which the originally limited functions of the Commonwealth have expanded beyond all recognition.

Reform.

There is no doubt as to where the decentralist stands in the constitutional dilemma which faces us in Australia today. He is on the side of the States, of their right and duty to tax their citizens; he may be in favour of new States with sovereign power within their allotted fields. Perhaps the propositions in which Archbishop Mannix summarised the highly significant article which he published on this subject in "Twentieth Century" in 1954 will best serve as a statement of the decentralist position:

The Archbishop declared:

- (1) Australia is historically a federal community—the system of sovereign States is part-and-parcel of the real Australian tradition.
- (2) Australia is too large, too varied and too underdeveloped to be capable of efficient and progressive administration if all government is centralised in one authority.
- (3) If the obligation to tax is removed from the power to spend, the real roots of financial responsibility essential to all government are removed. That is the evil of Uniform Taxation, which should be abolished.
- (4) Once there has been a definite new allotment of powers as between States and Commonwealth, full financial responsibility and independence should go to each partner. This involves the recognition of the right of the States to such a proportion of the field of income tax as would enable them to be really self-governing. It would be still better if totally distinct fields of taxation could be allotted to the separate bodies, although one must recognise the political difficulties involved in such a measure.
- (5) Once the States have thus regained the capacity to finance their basic functions, that provision of the Constitution (Section 96), which enables the Commonwealth to make financial aid available to the States should never be used so as to destroy the responsibility of the States.
The assistance furnished to the smaller or weaker States through the Commonwealth Grants Commission is indispensable to their development. The methods by which this and similar aid is provided should be carefully adapted to the need for preserving the responsibility of the States.
- (6) Co-operation between Commonwealth and State agencies operating in the same field should be the constant rule and neither side should seek to use this joint action to diminish the rights of the other. Co-operation between the States, so often sadly lacking, is equally important. It is regrettable that its absence has sometimes helped the advocates of complete unification.

At the "grass roots" level, increased responsibilities and finance for Local Government are also required in order to give that importance and attention to matters of a local nature which only local authorities can appreciate and deal with adequately.

SPECIFIC POLICY ON DECENTRALISATION.

Through public organisations and other media available, N.C.R.M. members should strive to have the following specific objectives implemented:

- (1) Immediate priority in public works expenditure should be given to the construction of new ports in the various States.
- (2) The next priority in public expenditure should be the construction of road and rail links between these new ports and their agricultural hinterlands.
- (3) The recommendations of the Utthwatt and Barlow Royal Commission (Great Britain) should be applied in the various States. This would involve a direct ban on building any new factories within a specified radius of cities over a certain size. This ban would be reinforced if it were accompanied by taxation incentives to industries establishing themselves along the rail and road links to the new ports.
- (4) The necessary political and technical decisions should be made to ensure that electric power from new sources like the Snowy River Scheme should be exploited primarily for country areas and for the new ports and new industrial developmental sites in the decentralised areas.
- (5) When these measures are under way the progressive decentralisation of public service departments whose activities lend themselves in particular to this policy, like the Education Department, Lands Department, Agricultural Department and Housing Commission, should take place.
- (6) The development of agricultural settlement for Australians, both returned soldiers and civilians, and migrants in regions thus created around these focal points, should be proceeded with to provide the agricultural base for an expanding Australian economy. The many millions of pounds which are being devoted to solving traffic and similar problems in capital cities might be invested with greater profit in settlement of the land.
- (7) The expansion of agriculture and of country industries should be accompanied by the extension to these areas of the social and cultural amenities and the facilities for recreation with which the cities are so lavishly endowed.

II. MIGRATION.

The N.C.R.M. backs the most widespread migration programme which is feasible for Australia. It believes that what has been achieved is relatively mediocre. Australia could do much more if it was prepared to restrict consumption and foster investment in homes, in agriculture and in basic industries rather than in luxuries or semi-luxuries.

The N.C.R.M. backs migration primarily because it is the Christian duty of Australia to aid and assist men and women who are the victims of persecution, poverty, war, insecurity. It would back migration for these basically spiritual reasons even if migration were disadvantageous to Australia in the material sense.

Since the approach of the N.C.R.M. to the problem of migration is basically a moral one—the duty of charity, which is as valid in the international as in the national field—its policy is founded on a recognition of the natural rights of the migrant as a human being. Hence—

- (a) It favours family migration rather than the migration of single men and women. It believes that all members of a migrant's family have the right to be admitted to this country, irrespective of whether they are efficient, economic units. Family migration is the Christian concept. Migration of single units is basically pagan.
- (b) It supports the right of the migrant to retain all that is good in his ancient traditions, language, culture, and religion. It is opposed to "one-way assimilation", a one-sided adoption of Australian habits and customs at the expense of ancestral traditions. It favours "mutual assimilation" in which migrants and Australians naturally merge their cultures and establish a new and perhaps higher synthesis. However, there must be no pressure on any individual to compel him to abandon what he holds dear.
- (c) It supports the right of the migrant to leave Australia as well as to enter it. Hence those migrants who are refugees from political and religious persecution not only have a double claim on the sympathetic support of Australians; they have the right to re-enter their own countries when they are restored to conditions of freedom.

Since the structure of the Australian secondary industry is too unstable to serve as a permanent basis for the absorption of migrants into Australia, the N.C.R.M. believes that it is only upon the basis of the expansion of agriculture, through the machinery of the more intense development of individual farms, land settlement and colonisation, that the migration programme should be re-established.

MORAL BASIS.

The Church has stated clearly the moral position on migration: People have a natural right to life.

People without land have a right to land without people. People have the right to emigrate and to immigrate. Absolute national sovereignty is not possessed by any nation. The richer countries have a duty to help poorer countries.

Countries of immigration (e.g., Australia) have a duty to consider the difficulties of immigration (economic, political and social) and to overcome those difficulties.

In the material order, we face such problems of:

- (a) relieving pressure of populations on resources in certain countries, e.g., Britain, Holland.
- (b) providing for Development and Defence in Australia;
- (c) improving world living standards by the migration of both people and capital.

Up to 1952, Australia achieved a rate of migrant absorption unsurpassed in the previous 100 years either by ourselves or by U.S.A. We did this under cover of inflation, high wool prices, and large foreign capital inflow. But since 1952 (when the first cut-back occurred) we have related our intake to current economic activity.

This is a defeatist policy. We have vast untapped natural resources, and, hence, a population potential which is immeasurable. Estimates of maximum population have risen from 8½ million (during the 1920's) to 20 million (during the last war) to 30 million today.

But why not 50 million, or 100 million?

The limit will be set, not by known natural resources, but, by our capacity and will to meet the challenge of achieving a maximum population.

This poses problems involved in Decentralisation; priorities for the development of basic industries and of the export and nett import replacement industries; Defence; and, the distribution of productive property in accordance with Christian principles.

III. LAND SETTLEMENT

It is generally admitted that if Australia is to be developed to the stage where she will have a chance of survival, her population must be increased to at least 20,000,000 people.

To feed this population, 100,000 new farms will have to be established. The N.C.R.M. supports planned settlements of both old and new Australians.

These are the issues:—

- (1) There is a vast work of development facing Australia.
- (2) That task should be undertaken within the framework of decentralisation, with which should be integrated an expanded migration programme.
- (3) Land settlement should be attempted by all appropriate means, e.g.,
 - (a) Colonisation, involving native born, and "new" Australians;
 - (b) Co-operative projects;
 - (c) Individual placements;
 - (d) The Primary Produce Gift Scheme and other similar forms of aid for needy settlers.
- (4) The role of Government is to create the basic conditions making settlement practicable, e.g.,
Legislation—Land Acts; Co-operation Acts.
Finance—To establish basic national capital investment priorities, supported by Central Bank credit policy, and, taxation policy designed to encourage an adequate supply of funds for development.
Markets—Promote realistic, mutually expansive trade agreements with other nations in an endeavour to ensure that exportable surpluses will be cleared and, that mutual gain from trade will arise.
- (5) Government should be conditioned to take action, as outlined, by a. informed public opinion expressed through public institutions—primary producer associations, etc.—and at the polls.
- (6) The impetus to such action is to be found in the international Communist threat to Australia, and Red sabotage from within.

IV. STRONG RURAL COMMUNITIES.

One of the reasons for the drift from the land has been the unattractiveness of rural life. Young people especially, have been attracted by the bright lights of the cities.

To counter this, the N.C.R.M. advocates that facilities for social, cultural and sporting activities should be established in rural centres. In addition, the extension of electricity, good water supply, roads and communications provides further inducements for people to remain on the land.

The decentralisation of power and authority to local government bodies will contribute substantially to the effective implementation of these policies.

Fewer people are inclined to leave attractive rural towns which cater for their many needs. Adequate medical care, including the services of specialists, is absolutely essential.

V. EDUCATION FOR COUNTRY LIVING

The teaching of rural and technical subjects, arts and crafts, to future farmers for too long has been neglected.

Generally, the curricula used in country schools are the same as those in the industrial suburbs of the capital cities; yet the type of occupation into which the respective students of these schools will go, differ greatly. Therefore, the N.C.R.M. believes that a far more realistic approach to the problem would be made if education in rural and technical subjects were made available to students in country areas.

More agricultural colleges are essential if the development of agriculture in this country is to progress at a reasonable rate. When it is considered that the economy of Australia is dependent mainly on its primary production, it is appalling to see how few agricultural colleges there are available to fulfil the educational needs of young men who wish to specialise in agriculture.

The N.C.R.M. supports the establishment of Adult Education facilities in country areas which would provide opportunities for people to gain knowledge in any of the wide range of subjects available, together with the provision of good libraries catering for a wide survey of humanistic and scientific subjects.

VI. STRONG FAMILY LIFE

We have already emphasised the essential nature of healthy family life. We believe the family can flourish only in the knowledge and practice of Christianity.

To make this possible in the material order, the N.C.R.M. strives for—

Comfortable homes with essential amenities.

Domestic help for mothers.

The home as the centre of family life and entertainment.

Family farm ownership.

Concerning the last point, agriculture and rural life cannot flourish unless grown up children are given a "stake in the farm", (or assisted towards getting a farm of their own), independence, and the opportunity to develop their personality and talents through the assumption of real responsibility. The retention of conditions under which grown-up children are treated as hired, or unpaid, labour, is a tragedy.

VII. CO-OPERATIVES

In times of general prosperity, the need for co-operatives seems to diminish—yet the need is keenly felt by families and pensioners, by the man trying to start a farm or other business.

With bank credit restrictions and the extensive use of Hire Purchase at exorbitant rates of interest, the need for, and value of, economic co-operation are crystal clear. Credit societies will lend where commercial banks will not. Housing Co-operatives provide finance on more reasonable terms than banks and other lending institutions, and they enable a greater number of dwellings to be erected than would otherwise be the case. Consumer and producer co-operatives fulfil a definite need, as history shows.

In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory, legislation exists to encourage and protect co-operative societies in all their aspects. In other States, which do not possess special com-

prehensive co-operative laws, much co-operative organisation is possible if people will avail themselves of existing legislation.

Laws, however, remain hollow words unless people are prepared to make use of them. Co-operation is a challenge to economic democracy. People claim they want it, yet very often they are not prepared to work for it.

True co-operation demands study of the principles and practice of co-operatives and the spirit to do things—not merely to start something and then leave it to the other fellow, but to “keep on keeping on”.

When Australia's record in the field of co-operatives is placed beside those of other countries, it will be seen that we have achieved very little. The establishment on a large scale of Credit Societies, Producer and Consumer Co-operatives, would offer to communities throughout Australia the opportunity to play a greater part in controlling their own economic destiny, and strengthening personal independence.

The provision of comprehensive Co-operation legislation in all States, modelled on the New South Wales and Victorian Co-operation Acts, and expert services such as the Registrars in those States provide, are the basic prerequisites to the healthy expansion of the Co-operative movement.

VIII. SCIENTIFIC FARMING

The welfare of Australia demands that her natural resources, provided by God for her use and benefit, should be fully and efficiently utilised. The N.C.R.M. holds this as a fundamental objective. Relevant policies are designed to this end, and their practical implementation is kept constantly before members.

Statements and suggestions that the N.C.R.M. is working to establish a “peasant economy”; that we wish to see small holdings everywhere irrespective of soil and climatic conditions; that what we want, in short, is “an acre of land, a migrant, and a sheep”, are completely untrue and are distortions of our aims. The Church has always been the foremost champion of science. Likewise, we in the N.C.R.M. advocate, support and work for scientific principles in relation to agriculture and industry.

We list, amongst our eight major objectives, Scientific Farming and Land Settlement. Under Scientific Farming we include pasture improvement, irrigation, prevention of soil erosion, afforestation, fodder conservation and the use of modern machinery.

Regions and Groups have sponsored visits to such as the “Keyline” farm and have conducted field days to demonstrate agricultural methods and machinery. One Region obtained outside scientific assistance and co-operated with a major primary producer organisation to rid district crops of army worm. Individual members apply advanced scientific principles to their own farms and, by written articles and talks, propagate the need for scientific practices.

Australia requires maximum productivity from her farms, factories and offices. The C.S.I.R.O. has provided rural industries with immeasurable benefits. In the U.S.A. nuclear energy is being applied to primary industry just as keenly as it is to manufacturing and mental processes. But in Australia primary producers are not represented proportionately on the various national representative committees.

Greater scientific use of the land means more farmers and greater numbers of people living on the land. Personnel of the Government Departments specialising in agriculture are eager to extend their knowledge to farmers. N.C.R.M. members should, as individuals and through farmers' organisations, give them the opportunities to do so.

IX. THINGS WE DO NOT STAND FOR

By way of emphasis, and to refute popular misrepresentations, we may express our policies in terms of “Things We Do Not Stand For”.

People who object to the centralisation of population and social institutions in the cities, to the concentration of economic and governmental power in fewer hands, to excessive industrialisation, often are charged with being extremists who want to go too far in the opposite direction.

WE DO NOT STAND FOR—

- **NO MANUFACTURE.** WE DO NOT STAND FOR the abandonment of manufacturing industries, for such would be madness.

WE OBJECT to the excessive degree of manufacturing established in Australian industry, much of it uneconomic and a nett drain on the national economy.

WE SUPPORT the expansion of basic manufacturing industries and those other efficient industries whose operations do not conflict with the common good. In particular, we support those engaged in processing locally produced raw materials on a decentralised basis.

- **ALL FARMING.** WE DO NOT STAND FOR a nation of farmers.

WE OBJECT to the relative abandonment of agriculture as a national policy. This, in conjunction with over-emphasis on manufacturing, has resulted in our present unbalanced economy.

WE STAND for a sufficient number of farms, of farm-workers, of rural output that will hold a stable balance with secondary and tertiary production.

- **ALL SMALL FARMS.** WE DO NOT STAND FOR “peasant” size holdings.

WE OBJECT to the monopolistic aggregation of land.

WE ADVOCATE that farms should be organised on an efficient basis in the light of climatic, soil, vegetation conditions in particular areas, and, in regard to the extent of the market. Whether, in these circumstances, a farm is large or small, the goal should be the utmost utilisation of every acre.

- **NO SCIENTIFIC APPLICATION.** WE DO NOT STAND FOR the rejection of scientific advances.

WE SUPPORT, as the Church always has, the fullest application of science to all industry and social institutions.

- **THE ABANDONMENT OF CITIES.** WE DO NOT STAND FOR the complete fragmentation of social life.

Until the advent of the atomic and the hydrogen bombs, which make all concentrations dangerous, we supported Capital and Regional cities, but, with populations well below half a million.

Cities should exist to provide services to regional populations, not to be magnets for the concentration of population, industry and Government.

- **NO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.** WE DO NOT SUPPORT the contention that there should be no Centralisation of Government functions.

WE OBJECT to present over-centralisation of powers.

WE SUPPORT the exercise of powers in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, i.e., that no instrumentality should exercise powers which can be exercised at least as well by smaller bodies.

WHAT WE DO STAND FOR is a society living in accordance with the Natural Law, with no exaggerated disproportions between locations of people and industry, or in the exercise of Governmental powers, or in the enjoyment of social and cultural amenities; a society wherein exist common bonds between farmers, townspeople and city dwellers.

CHAPTER IV

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE N.C.R.M.

- I. NATIONAL INFLUENCE
- II. PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS
- III. TRAINING LEADERS
- IV. EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE
- V. CO-OPERATIVES
- VI. FLOOD AND DROUGHT RELIEF
- VII. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- VIII. MIGRANT SETTLEMENT
- IX. PRIMARY PRODUCE GIFT SCHEME
- X. RURAL SETTLEMENTS

In assessing the impact of the N.C.R.M. on society, certain concrete facts such as the number of co-operatives organised can be seen and evaluated. Of much more significance has been our impact on social, economic and political thought in Australia. Gradually over the years, the N.C.R.M. has developed a philosophy of rural life through the hammering out of both short and long run policies. While it is left to Almighty God alone to know how much the N.C.R.M. has really achieved, we can examine, however, how far Australia has approached to our concept of human society.

At the first conference held at Xavier College in 1939, the report of the Gepp Commission on the Wheat and Bread industries was discussed. The figures given were that the wheat growers of Australia owed £151 million, whilst their assets amounted to £136 million: 40% were bankrupt, seemingly beyond all hope of repair. The economists recommended that the frontiers of Australian Agriculture should gradually recede. On that occasion, a delegate gave as a definition of a dairy farm — "A piece of land surrounded by mortgages". The debt on dairy farms was £63 million. Again, the advice was "Withdraw the frontiers of Agriculture".

That is not the case in the post-war world because all realistic economists are telling Australia that at least the bulk of development, must be in the other direction of extending the frontiers of Agriculture.

I. NATIONAL INFLUENCE.

To the N.C.R.M. belongs the distinction of being the first public body to analyse the dangers facing Australian Primary production; to create a general awareness of these problems; and to offer a complete plan for the development of Australia in conformity with Christian principles. Increasingly, these warnings and proposals are winning the support of competent authorities.

Briefly, this plan involves the development of Australia's river valleys; the extension of power electricity and proper transport facilities to country areas; the use of Co-operatives in land settlement; the development of Port facilities at places like Eden on the South Coast of N.S.W. and at Portland in the rich Western District of Victoria near the South Australian border; and the reticulation of railways from such ports into the farming hinterlands.

Furthermore, since only a certain amount of capital is available, if rural areas are to be developed then State Governments have to take necessary action to prevent capital cities from increasing their already swollen size, and to channel public and private capital into primary industries. An iron belt around Sydney and Melbourne limiting building permits within the city area would channel private and public capital into new factories in rural areas, into new homes in rural areas and into transport and other services for the country.

In addition, the diversion of public and private capital away from the capital cities would mean that finance would become available to implement a scheme for large-scale development in land settlement for returned soldiers, civilians and migrants.

II. PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS.

The existence of such a plan provides in detail an alternative to the growth of the "City-State". Wherever N.C.R.M. Groups exist, these policies have been represented in public organisations, awakening interest in the development of the land, winning support for particular ideas and so creating a favourable climate of thought.

Since most of the decisions affecting our daily lives are made by Parliaments and Local Government bodies, individual members of the N.C.R.M. have obtained support for various policies in local organisations. In turn, these organisations have urged State, Federal and Local Governments to adopt certain action.

The N.C.R.M., in this way, was, in co-operation with other bodies, a major force in obtaining the passage of the Co-operation Act, 1953, through the Victorian State Legislature.

The sum total of such constant activity in the organisations of rural society has had a considerable influence in the social, economic and political spheres of the community. The full extent of this influence may never be known but already it has borne much fruit. There is a whole vast programme yet to be achieved. The moulding of informed Public Opinion will always be one of the main objectives of the N.C.R.M. just as the results already achieved are among its greatest triumphs.

III. TRAINING LEADERS.

The training and education of local leaders has given an impetus to all forms of community development designed to make the district and its local centre a full and satisfying environment for the needs of all members of the family.

By N.C.R.M. members taking an active interest in public affairs through such as producers' organisations, Progress Associations, Shire Councils, Country Women's Association branches, etc., new impetus has often been given to them. New ideas mean vitality, and vital organisations are indispensable for a contented rural community. This training of community leaders is one of the most important functions of Groups.

IV. EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE.

Education in good techniques of agriculture has been provided by means of experiments in pasture improvement, soil and water conservation, chisel plowing; and by Field Days conducted on animal husbandry, modern machinery, wool and wheat growing, farm management, etc.

In the field of Secondary education, an Agricultural College has been established by Father Kent at Cygnet in the Huon Valley, Tasmania. "Lourdes Hill" was built entirely by the parishioners themselves and it is under the care of the Christian Brothers. Full training in all aspects of farming, dairying, pig-raising, etc., is provided at the College. As an example of the work undertaken by a parish desirous of making a practical application of N.C.R.M. ideas, Lourdes Hill Agricultural College is a fine tribute.

Young Farmers' Clubs have been organised by Group members in many areas. Through these Clubs, young people can develop their knowledge of farming and equip themselves fully for the technical aspects of their vocations.

SHOW PRIZES.

The custom of donating a prize to be awarded to a worthy exhibitor at District Agricultural Shows has been instituted by several Groups.

The Terang-Camperdown (Vic.) Region for some years has sponsored the N.C.R.M. Prize for the best Junior Stock Exhibitor at the Noorat Show who does not win a major prize.

Such awards encourage farmers to take a pride in their stock and to exhibit them in the Agricultural Show.

Having the prize awarded in the name of the N.C.R.M. brings before the public in a very practical way one of the objects of the Rural Movement — the promotion of Agriculture.

FIELD DAYS.

Field days of various kinds are a regular feature of the N.C.R.M.'s activity in every Region. They may deal with, among other things:

- Machinery.
- Animal Husbandry.
- Agriculture — crops.
- Soil and Pasture Improvements.
- Water Conservation.

As a means of disseminating information on the latest technical developments, field days are probably unsurpassed.

Many Regions also conduct a Rally each year which brings the members together for a picnic, social and conference combined. This is particularly useful where the Region covers a wide area. For example, the Campaspe Region's Annual Rally provides an opportunity for groups to meet, discuss problems and hear addresses, while enjoying a social outing at beautiful Muskerry within the Region.

V. CO-OPERATIVES.

The N.C.R.M. has played a leading role in the development of Co-operative Societies. Some 30 Credit Societies have been established in the States of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria. Several of these Co-operatives have a capital investment of over £10,000, and one has an annual turnover of £21,000, the estimated total annual loans being £50,000.

Co-operatives of other kinds such as Community Advancement Societies, Co-operative Marketing Schemes, Co-operative Insurance have been developed in different areas.

In the field of rural housing, the N.C.R.M. has sponsored both Terminating and Permanent Co-operative Building Societies. The Leon-gatha and District Co-operative Housing Society has a capital of over £150,000 and has financed the building of 58 homes in South Gippsland (Vic.). In 1956, the people concerned obtained an allocation of £160,000 under the Commonwealth-States' Housing Co-operative Scheme.

The Hume Permanent Building and Investment Co-operative Society (Albury, N.S.W.) is typical of the permanent Housing Co-operatives being encouraged by the N.C.R.M. It operates in the Murray Valley on both sides of the border. Money is lent for the purpose of purchasing homes or farms, or erecting homes. As well as providing loans, the Hume has an investor's department and accepts investments at 5% interest. A similar Co-operative is in existence in Wagga, N.S.W.

The total capital investments in Building Societies sponsored by the N.C.R.M. is approximately £1,000,000.

VI. FLOOD AND DROUGHT RELIEF.

Among the many practical works of Charity carried out by the various branches of the N.C.R.M. has been the prompt assistance given to fellow farmers in time of disaster.

During the floods in Northern N.S.W. in recent years, the N.C.R.M. collected large quantities of fodder and money for distribution among the flood victims. In many cases, the timely arrival of this fodder assisted in preventing cattle from dying of starvation.

In the early days of the Rural Movement, farmers in the Western Districts of Victoria provided agistment for the horses of drought-stricken Mallee farmers.

Such gestures as these have helped break down local barriers and have given country people a wider interest in people and districts beyond the confines of their own Region.

VII. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Investigations and research into various country localities have been carried out with the purpose of increasing primary production, analysing the needs of the district, establishing secondary industries and providing rural amenities and public utilities.

One of the prior tasks of Regional Councils is to conduct such enquiries, recommend the type of development required in the region, and then set out obtaining effective action on each recommendation.

GREEN BELT.

This topic may be considered to be one of the critical questions we face in the field of public policy. Again, at the moment, it concerns Victoria, but very rapidly it will concern other States. We refer to the Green Belt Plan which has been developed by the Board of Works in Melbourne by its Town Planning Section to regulate the growth of Melbourne. Three things must be pointed out:—

- (1) It concerns Victoria today. It will concern every other capital city in every other State in a very short time.
- (2) The problem of rural settlement, as has been emphasised, depends largely upon the amount of public money which can be diverted from other fields into rural settlement.
- (3) Since the war, Australia has always saved and invested more than 20% of its national income, which is a large figure, but an undue proportion of it has gone into the manufacturing industries on the fringes of the cities.

It is against that background that Melbourne's Green Belt Plan assumes importance for us as a Rural Movement, and will assume importance in all other States as similar projects are undertaken there.

What does this project involve? Briefly, it provides for the limitation of the growth of Melbourne by placing a Green Belt around it. It acts upon the presumption that Melbourne will inevitably grow by some 40,000 people every year—that is a town of the size of Ballarat growing every year—until by 1980, it will have 2½ million people. Then around that we put a Green Belt and stop it growing any further.

A further presumption is that for each group of 40,000 people who come into Melbourne every year, there is a need for public and private investment, by way of factories, schools, roads and the rest, of £100 million to accommodate them.

What do we say about this plan? It goes to the very heart of our argument, to the heart of our philosophy. We think it is clear that, strategically, such a plan to build Melbourne to 2½ million people is nothing short of lunacy. At the very moment when one of the economists of the plan was explaining the plan, one of the officials of the Atomic Energy Commission said in an interview: "Cities are finished!" He said that, from a survey of the likely effects of nuclear bombing of the sixty-seven largest American cities, he had concluded that nine million people would be killed instantly and another twenty-two million wounded seriously. "There are not enough beds in this hemisphere to handle such a disaster. How can you bury nine million corpses?" And, at such a time, we propose to build up Melbourne and to spend £100 million a year to create bigger and better hydrogen bomb targets.

PLAN FOR VICTORIA.

From the viewpoint of population, we know the effects of such a plan; and, economically, it is a diversion of capital into the most unproductive sections of our country. Therefore, we believe that this concept must be fought now, before it is accepted and acknowledged. It must be fought not negatively, not simply by reaction, but by a better idea and we believe that, under God, the same techniques that gave us the Co-operation Act will enable Victoria, and later other States, to have a plan for Victoria rather than a plan for Melbourne. By that, we mean this:

Firstly, priority in the public expenditure of the State for the creation of new ports at Portland, Port Albert and, it is hoped, Eden, N.S.W.

Secondly, the building of road and rail communications from the hinterland to those ports. That takes away all but one of the economic advantages of building factories in Melbourne.

Thirdly, to implement one of the findings of the Utthwatt and Barlow Royal Commission in England, to place a bar on the erection of new factories within a specified radius of Melbourne, and to give taxation incentives to factories which establish themselves elsewhere.

Fourthly, to ensure that the new power supplies, particularly from the Snowy, are not diverted to Melbourne and Sydney.

Fifthly, when these things are done, the decentralising of Government Departments around the new regional centres.

We believe that this is a superior idea to the Green Belt Plan, and that a plan for Victoria can take its place in the legislation of the Victorian State.

This is the Victorian picture, but what is happening in Melbourne will happen readily in other States.

ACTION FOR THE FUTURE.

Economically, geographically, all of these propositions are, in the strictly engineering sense, all possible. The only valid argument against this viewpoint was one which was expressed recently by a high public official, who said: "Economically and from an engineering viewpoint, yes, but what you propose is politically impossible".

As for political impossibility — from 1945-51, we saw the hold of Communism upon the Australian Trade Union Movement substantially weakened. In 1945, that was considered to be politically impossible. All over the world today, at least 850 million people are under the control of the International Communist Movement. When the International Communist Movement began, that was considered to be a political impossibility. It was not the beauty of their theory; it was not the inspiration of their drive; it was not their terrorism and their idea that the end justified the means that brought them to success. Fundamentally, it was one thing: they knew what they wanted and they got it. Let us take a leaf out of their book. Let us, too, define what we want and let us go ahead to get it.

VIII. MIGRANT SETTLEMENT.

Migrant settlement has been undertaken by Groups throughout all States. Accommodation and employment in occupations varying from share-farmers, market-gardeners, bakers to engineers have been found for recommended Catholic Migrants.

Outstanding has been the example of a few N.C.R.M. members in the Koroit and Port Fairy parishes of the Ballarat Diocese. They have successfully settled over 200 migrants despite the obvious difficulties involved.

Working in conjunction with the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, Headquarters Office has arranged for the nomination of many workers and their families from European countries.

IX. PRIMARY PRODUCE GIFT SCHEME.

In the Western District of Victoria, in 1954, there originated a scheme to provide stock for land settlement projects. The scheme has spread to other parts of Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.

Within the first three years of actual operations, stock valued at £8,000 had been issued to settlers.

The basic consideration in providing assistance is NEED, without regard to religion or nationality.

X. RURAL SETTLEMENTS.

Maryknoll Community Settlement in Gippsland (Vic.), established by Father W. A. Pooley, represents a direct application of N.C.R.M. ideas. Twenty-nine families live in the Settlement. Each family has its own house; and a Church-School, Convent and Presbytery provide for the spiritual needs of the community.

Dairying is carried on while secondary industries include a carpentry and joinery works, home building, soft drink factory, and vestment making.

There is a post office on the settlement and a Co-operative Housing Society and Credit Society exist for the benefit of members.

The **San Isidore Rural Settlement** at Wagga, N.S.W., was inaugurated by His Lordship Bishop Henschke, the Episcopal Chairman of the N.C.R.M.

Situated about five miles from the town of Wagga, the Settlement is close to the main Riverina highway. The basic idea behind the Settlement is to provide housing in a rural setting for Catholic families from the town. The Settlement comprises about eighty five-acre blocks in a rich agricultural location.

Provision has also been made for a church, school, convent, presbytery, shops and community hall. Large areas have been set aside as a common, park-lands and sporting fields.

The scheme is not meant to be a farming settlement, but to enable Catholic families to live a full Christian life in a Catholic community, providing whatever food they wish by running a cow, growing vegetables or producing eggs. The men work in the town and district.

A Housing Co-operative exists to help finance the building of homes and a Credit Union to assist settlers with small loans. Roads have been built and the town water supply and electricity have been laid on to the blocks.

As experiments in Christian living, these Settlements are shining examples of the practical worth of the social philosophy of the Church.

PART II. ORGANISATION

CHAPTER V. STRUCTURE OF THE N.C.R.M.

- I. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
- II. REGIONAL COUNCILS—
 - Extent of Regions
 - Functions of Regional Councils
 - Composition of Regional Councils
 - Special Offices
- III. PARISH GROUPS
- IV. ADVISORY PANELS
- V. NATIONAL CONVENTION
- VI. TRAINING SCHOOLS
- VII. THE ROLE OF THE CHAPLAIN

I. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

The supreme governing body of the N.C.R.M. is the National Executive. This body is the final authority deciding the policy of the Rural Movement. It is comprised of—

- (a) The Episcopal Chairman.
- (b) The National and Diocesan Chaplains.
- (c) The National Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Organising Secretaries.
- (d) Representatives of each officially recognised Region as follows:
 - Two Lay Representatives.
 - Regional Chaplain.
- (e) Such other persons as may be co-opted from time to time.

The National Executive meets quarterly under the chairmanship of the Episcopal Chairman or his representative. It considers all business arising between Conventions and reports on the progress in each Region. It resolves recommendations from Convention and sees that all Regions endeavour to put into effect such decisions concerning them. In this way, activities are co-ordinated throughout all Regions.

The functions of the National Executive are as follows:—

- (a) To formulate the policy of the N.C.R.M.
- (b) To instruct the executive officers of the N.C.R.M. as to the administration of its affairs.
- (c) To control the activities of the Regional Councils and to issue instructions to them.

- (d) To fix an annual rate of membership, to collect all moneys resulting through whatever agencies it may specify, and to expend such moneys for any purposes necessary to the welfare and progress of the N.C.R.M.
- (e) Any other matters incidental to the above.

II. REGIONAL COUNCILS.

The Region is the basis of administration in the N.C.R.M. Each Region is governed by a Regional Council elected by the Groups existing within its boundaries and having authority over those Groups. Each Region is subject to the National Executive but has wide powers in its own administration of national policy.

EXTENT OF REGIONS.

What constitutes a Region? This question is often hard to define exactly, but, in fact, a region is determined by boundaries set by natural geographical and social factors. People set the limits to their own region by the extent of their social relations. Thus people using a common town for shopping, business, sporting and social purposes will come to regard themselves as belonging to a particular region. Together they will form a community of interest which can readily be distinguished from a similar bond binding people of the next region even though the boundaries between the two may not always be clear.

In determining the limits and boundaries embraced by a Regional Council, the main criterion should be convenience. The Groups themselves decide which Region they wish to join. Regions should not be too big geographically or else travel becomes a problem.

FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS.

The Regional Council has a key role to play. On it devolves the task of initiating, co-ordinating, directing and guiding the activities of the individual members and Groups in the region. The effectiveness of campaigns conducted in public organizations particularly depends on the co-ordination, concentration and timing of all efforts. This can only be provided by the Regional Council.

The following are the four main functions of a Regional Council:—

(1) Organization.

The internal organisation of the N.C.R.M. in the region is the responsibility of the Council. It should—

- (a) Organise new Groups where possible.
- (b) Stimulate existing Groups to continue their work and their influence.
- (c) Spread a knowledge of Christian social principles throughout the community.

By requiring detailed reports of each Group, the Council can gauge better the effectiveness of work done.

(2) Service to the Rural Community.

By providing added incentives to farmers and country people to continue to live in rural areas, the Regional Council contributes to the stabilizing of society and decreases the flight from the land.

The following means have proved successful —

- (a) Credit Unions.
- (b) Co-operative Housing Societies.
- (b) Community Advancement Societies for providing Electricity and Social Amenities.
- (d) Summer Schools to teach children Catechism.
- (e) Rural Retreats.
- (f) Practical Charity towards neighbours.

(3) Influence Public Opinion.

The third function of the Regional Council is to focus the spotlight of attention on matters of interest to the general public such as housing, land aggregation and development, industrialization, migration.

This should be carried out either officially as a branch of the N.C.R.M. whenever deemed advisable, or by influencing the policies of social institutions by the members.

The Council should have before its mind the spreading of Christian social ideas throughout the community by means of personal influence, press, radio and public meetings. The co-ordination of this activity is very important so that resources are concentrated on some point or points and not dissipated over all aspects of policy at the one time.

It is advisable that the Regional Council draw up a list of subjects to be advanced by the Groups. At every meeting of the Council, the success of the previous quarter's campaign should be evaluated.

Such a list might include —

- 1. Electrification of local areas.
- 2. Development of new irrigation schemes.
- 3. Improvement of shire or municipal roads.
- 4. Land settlement by Councils.
- 5. Housing in the country.
- 6. Establishment of new country industries.

(4) Regional Projects.

Some projects are better handled on a regional basis than by the Groups because of their magnitude or their importance.

Projects should, if possible, begin and end on a fixed date so that new work can be undertaken, and to ensure that the campaign does not drag on.

There should always be at least two projects in hand at any given time. By the Council appointing one of its members or a committee to control each project greater efficiency can be ensured.

A few examples are listed of practical projects already carried out successfully in some Regions. Fuller details of these projects will be given in a later Chapter —

- (a) Migrant Settlement.
- (b) Primary Produce Gift Scheme.
- (c) Prizes at Agricultural Shows.
- (d) Regional Surveys.
- (e) Land Settlement.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS.

President.

Vice-President.

Secretary-Treasurer.

Regional and Group Chaplains.

Representatives of Groups.

Representatives of Parishes without Groups.

The Bishop of a Diocese on the recommendation of National Executive usually appoints one priest to be Regional Chaplain; but all Chaplains of Groups are members of the Regional Council.

Each Group elects three lay delegates, for a period of 12 months, as provided by the Constitution. These representatives are required to present a written report on the activities of their Group and also report back to their Group members all decisions of the Regional Council.

In respect of those areas where Groups do not exist, but where N.C.R.M. members are keen to play an active part in the Lay Apostolate, the Regional Council may co-opt additional members.

SPECIAL OFFICES.

There are various offices that require special attention and one person or a committee of the Council may be made responsible. The Council can determine which of these offices apply to it and whether a committee, or one officer, is indicated.

Some of these special offices are —

- 1. Delegates to National Executive.
- 2. Organisations.
- 3. Membership and Finance.
- 4. Librarian and Editor of Bulletin.
- 5. Propaganda.
- 6. Education.
- 7. Director of Co-operatives.
- 8. Migration.
- 9. Publicity.
- 10. Assistant Secretary.

From time to time, some of these offices may require revision and new needs will arise. The Regional Council, therefore, should annually review the positions it considers most useful in carrying out its objectives. Any number of these offices may be held by the one man or committee.

It is a wise move to ensure that each member of the Council has at least one office for which he is responsible.

The business of Council is facilitated if President and Secretary can readily contact each other.

Regional Councils meet quarterly. Preceding each meeting a National Executive Meeting is held so that each Region is kept up to date on current trends. The delegates report back to their own Councils on all matters discussed by the National Executive.

III. PARISH GROUPS.

The local Parish Group is the basic unit of the N.C.R.M. and is the training ground for the lay apostle. Wherever possible, there should be at least one group in each Parish. No Parish Group, however, may be formed without the consent of the Parish Priest. Each Group should affiliate with its respective Regional Council.

Groups may be composed entirely of men, with a separate group for women, or be of mixed sexes. (The latter is the usual form).

Office-bearers are elected for 12 months and the Annual Meeting shall be held in March of each year.

Groups shall meet at least once a month. Fortnightly meetings are strongly recommended.

Activities. The Parish Group may be viewed from four aspects:

(1) **Spiritual Training.**

To do the work of the Lay Apostolate, the right motives are necessary. We must become apostles of the 20th Century. In order to help us to become more Christ-like in our daily lives, the first part of the meeting is devoted to studying the Gospels and trying to imitate our Divine Master.

The presence of the Chaplain at the meeting not only assists in drawing the most fruit from the Gospel discussions, but, in his address, he places the role of the lay apostle before the Group constantly.

This spiritual foundation is the basis of all activity and the condition of lasting success in the Lay Apostolate.

(2) **Education.**

Group education may be considered from two aspects —

(a) The education of Group members in Christian social teaching and the policies based on that doctrine is a vital part of the Group's function. It is necessary for members to be acquainted with the economic problems, the agricultural, social and moral problems of Australia if the N.C.R.M. is going to spread a Christian influence throughout society.

The first task, therefore, is to see that members are thoroughly grounded in Christian principles and N.C.R.M. policies, and they must understand the application of those policies to their own Regions.

(b) The Group is also a source of education for both Catholics and the general community. One of the tests of the effectiveness of a Group is the extent to which knowledge of competing agricultural systems, technical information, social ideas and practical policies penetrate the immediate environment. This is achieved through the personal contacting of key individuals by members; by making full use of local press and radio; by organising field days and public lectures; and most of all, by winning support for any specific policy or project through the Public organisations of the area.

(3) **Applying Christian Principles.**

The members of the local Group must not only have a theoretical knowledge of Christian social thought, but this must be applied to the very district itself.

If the N.C.R.M. is to have any effect locally, each Group must study its region and work out what type of development is indicated. What is needed in the way of Co-operatives? What type of factories would complete the balance of the area? How can population be increased? What opportunities exist for closer settlement? Can homes and jobs be found for migrants?

These are all questions that must be considered locally. By drawing up a master-plan for the development of the district and working for its realisation, the Group will always have a concrete objective.

(4) **Action.**

If the Group is to be more than a study Group, it is necessary to have some practical work before it all the time.

Firstly, there will be various projects being run by the Regional Council such as collecting Hay for Flood Relief, conducting a Rural Retreat or a Land Settlement project. These works depend entirely on the Groups to put them into action.

Secondly, there are many projects that can only be carried out by the local Group. Assistance in parish work, Agricultural experiments, re-afforestation, field days, helping migrants, diversification of agriculture on the farms of members: these are all projects requiring effort on the part of members.

If a Group has always some practical project in hand, it will never feel it is doing nothing, and members will not lose interest.

IV. ADVISORY PANELS.

There is provision for panels to be set up by National Executive, one in each branch of Agriculture, which advises on the problems of that industry.

The composition of these panels is drawn from the members of the N.C.R.M., combining practical experience with a theoretical approach to the economic problems of each rural industry.

Functions.

(1) **Advice.** The Panel advise on all policies associated with their industry and help in working out a sound practical programme in the light of Christian Social principles that will offer a positive solution to the farmer's problems within that industry.

(2) **Public Opinion.** The members of the Advisory Panels, having decided on policy, place these ideas before public bodies interested in their particular problems and endeavour to have these policies adopted. In this way, they have a positive programme to offer the men engaged in their industry.

While trying to solve the immediate problems facing their industry, the Advisory Panels also bear in mind long-term developments and the type of encouragement most needed by the farmers. For example, the expansion of markets, reduction in protective tariffs, subsidies, taxation concessions, extension of credit.

Advisory Councils meet as required, but at least once a year.

V. NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The National Convention is held annually. All members of the N.C.R.M. are entitled to take an active part and members of the public are welcome to attend the public sessions.

The main functions of the National Convention are:—

- To assist in the spiritual formation of members.
- To provide a forum for exchange of ideas by members.
- To promote a knowledge of policy amongst members.
- To present policy recommendations for consideration by National Executive and action during the coming year.
- To provide publicity for N.C.R.M. ideas and policies throughout Australia.

VI. TRAINING SCHOOLS.

From time to time. Training Schools in the Principles and Techniques of the Lay Apostolate are held at Belloc House, (for men) and at "Tay Creggan" (for women), Melbourne.

Also, week-end and one-day schools are conducted by Headquarters staff in country areas from time to time.

Full details of these courses appear in "Rural Life."

Agenda. The Belloc House course covers several fields of instruction —

- (1) The Spiritual formation of the Lay Apostolate.
- (2) The organization of the N.C.R.M. and its relation to other Lay Apostolic movements.
- (3) A complete statement of the policies of the N.C.R.M. as part of the general structure of the Lay Apostolate.
- (4) The techniques of the Lay Apostolate in Rural Areas.
- (5) Debating, Public Speaking and Procedure at Meetings

This course is condensed for members attending week-end or one-day schools in the country.

Some schools are conducted for young members while others provide a more advanced course for experienced members.

Education and training are vital for success; hence, it is extremely important that, wherever possible, N.C.R.M. members should attend these week-long schools which are conducted in an ideal spiritual and study environment. Good leadership is dependent on education and training. Training schools supply this need.

VII. THE ROLE OF THE CHAPLAIN.

An essential member of every Group is the Chaplain. No more succinct summary of the duties of the Chaplain could be found than in the words of the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Carboni, in his Inaugural Address to the Catholic Social Week held at Melbourne University in May, 1956.

His Excellency said:

"It may be well to mention the nature of the role of the chaplain in these organisations of Catholics geared to temporal objectives. The chaplain is the nominee or delegate of the Bishop in the sphere of the spiritual formation of the members of the organisations.

"It is wrong to look upon him as the head or director of activities ordered to temporal objectives.

"It is obvious that the quality of the decisions made by the laymen will be determined by the degree of spiritual development which they have reached; by the degree to which they have been led to 'think with the Church' in their approach to all of the problems of the modern world.

"It is only if they have been led to see that their action in the temporal field is not the action of a politician, an economist, or an agricultural expert, but that of an apostle using each of these disciplines, that they can be relied upon properly to exercise the great powers entrusted to them.

"Above all, it is only if they see their social apostolate as a mighty manifestation of the charity of Christ — the very kernel of their Faith — that they will accomplish the Christian transformation of the social order to which they aspire.

"There is the noble vocation of the Clergy as far as lay movements are concerned — to form the consciences, to mould the spirits, and to elevate the souls of their members. None but the chaplains can perform this task on which depends entirely the success of the social apostolate. Without themselves occupying those positions of leadership which belong by right to the laity, the chaplains can determine the character and the calibre of that leadership by the spiritual formation which they impart."

CHAPTER VI.

FORMATION OF PARISH GROUPS AND REGIONAL COUNCILS.

I. PARISH GROUPS.

- (1) Procedure.
- (2) The Inaugural Meeting.
- (3) Suggested Agenda.

II. REGIONAL COUNCILS.

- (1) Requirements.
- (2) Procedure.
- (3) The Inaugural Meeting.
- (4) Purpose of Meeting.
- (5) Constitution.

I. HOW TO FORM A PARISH GROUP.

(1) Procedure.

The first step in forming a Parish Group of the N.C.R.M. is to notify the Regional Council, or if one does not exist in the area, National Headquarters, of your intention. If possible arrangements will be made for an organiser to visit your district and help to form a Group.

Usually the Chaplain selects the nucleus of a Group, say five or six persons, from the parish who he thinks will be prepared to carry the work of the Church into the public life of the community. Due attention should be paid to obtaining a balance of town and country members. The N.C.R.M. is not meant to be entirely a farmers' movement nor one of townspeople only. There is a place for the farmer and grazier, the lawyer, the dairy farmer, the rural worker, the market-gardener, the factory worker and the housewife, all providing a good cross-section of country life.

The quality of Group membership is important since only truly apostolic Catholics will be prepared to carry Christ into the institutions of public life. Each member must have a strong sense of vocation. Pope Pius XII warns the Lay Apostolate that they "should show themselves endowed with a keen sense of Justice, ready to oppose with real, manly constancy unjust claims and unjust actions; that they avoid every extreme with consummate prudence and discretion".

The Chaplain has the responsibility of selecting for initial membership of the Group those whom he considers best suited for the work of the Lay Apostolate. Each member selected should be approached personally and asked to attend the inaugural meeting. If the Chaplain so wishes, an announcement may be made from the pulpit that a Group of the N.C.R.M. is to be formed. When the Group is established and functioning, any member may propose to the Group meeting candidates for membership.

(2) The Inaugural Meeting.

At the inaugural meeting the aims and objects of the N.C.R.M. should be read and its formal structure and works outlined. After the Chaplain has explained the apostolic nature of the Lay Apostolate, each member should be invited to join the Group.

Once the Group is formed, the meeting proceeds to elect a President, Vice-President and Secretary. Elections thereafter are held annually during the month of March. Having resolved to form a Parish Group of the N.C.R.M. and having elected office-bearers, the meeting should pass a resolution applying to National Headquarters for affiliation.

(3) Suggested Agenda for Initial Meeting.

- (i) Opening Prayer.
- (ii) The aims and objects of the N.C.R.M.
- (iii) Organisation and practical works of the N.C.R.M.
- (iv) Apostolic Nature of the Lay Apostolate.
- (v) Questions.
- (vi) Election of Office-bearers.
- (vii) Motion: That a Branch of the N.C.R.M. be formed and affiliation sought with the National body.
- (viii) Closing Prayer.

II. HOW TO FORM A REGIONAL COUNCIL.

(1) Requirements.

The formation of a Regional Council presupposes the existence of N.C.R.M. Groups within a fairly well-defined Region. Distance should not be so great that members of outlying Groups are unable to attend meetings.

At least three Groups are necessary for the formation of a Regional Council. N.C.R.M. members in parishes where no Group exists may be invited by the Council to represent their districts on the Council.

Any Group may initiate proceedings leading to the formation of a Regional Council.

(2) Procedure.

When a Group has decided in favour of forming a Regional Council to bring all Groups adjacent to it into contact and to co-ordinate their various activities, the Secretary should contact the other Groups in the proposed Region asking them to consider the motion, e.g., "That a Regional Council of the N.C.R.M. be formed in the Upper Hunter Valley (or other appropriate area) embracing the Parishes of . . .".

Next, Headquarters should be notified of the decisions of the Groups. If possible, they will arrange for an organiser to visit the area and assist in the inauguration of the Council.

The Diocesan Chaplain should also be notified of the proposed plans and consulted as far as possible.

(3) The Inaugural Meeting.

The Secretary of the Group initiating the move for the formation of the Council should convene a General Meeting of all Groups and financial members of the N.C.R.M. in the Region, at a place central to all, on a convenient date. Invitations to attend this meeting should be sent to:—

National Headquarters.

The Diocesan Chaplain (or Chaplains, where more than one Diocese is involved).

All Priests in the Region.

Secretaries of N.C.R.M. Groups in the Region.

Notices may be inserted in parish and local papers, and notices read from the pulpits announcing the purpose of the meeting and inviting all financial members and others interested.

(4) Purpose of Meeting.

The purpose of this General Meeting is threefold:—

To explain the details of Regional Organisation to members.

To adopt the resolution "That a Regional Council of the N.C.R.M. be formed in the Upper Hunter Valley (or other appropriate area) embracing the Parishes of . . .".

To arrange for the Election of Office-bearers. This may be done at the General Meeting or be deferred until the Groups elect their delegates to the Council.

(5) Constitution.

The composition and functions of the Regional Councils are provided for in the Constitution of the N.C.R.M. (S.7(B).) Each Region is subject to the National Executive but has wide powers in its own administration of national policy.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CONDUCT OF A MEETING.

I. PROCEDURE AT A PARISH GROUP MEETING.

- (1) Agenda.
- (2) Explanation of Agenda.

II. PROCEDURE AT A REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING.

- (1) Agenda.
- (2) Explanation of Agenda.

I. PROCEDURE AT PARISH GROUP MEETINGS.

(1) Agenda.

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| (a) A decade (or five decades) of the Rosary, and N.C.R.M. prayer, followed by an invocation to the Patron Saint of the Group (or Parish). | } 10 minutes. |
| (b) Objects of the N.C.R.M. (from Constitution). | |
| (c) Apologies. | |
| (d) Minutes of Last Meeting. | } 15 minutes. |
| (e) Business Arising from Minutes. | |
| (f) Correspondence. | |
| (g) Gospel Discussion. | 20 minutes. |
| (h) Reports: | 20 minutes. |
| (i) Regional Council. | |
| (ii) Membership. | |
| (iii) Finance. | |
| (iv) Public Organisations. | |
| (v) Migration. | |
| (vi) Co-operatives. | |
| (vii) Other Reports. | |
| (i) Organisation:
Practical work to be done;
Subjects for local organisations;
Allocation of tasks. | 20 minutes. |
| (j) General Business. | 10 minutes. |
| (k) Education and 5-minute talk. | 20 minutes. |
| (l) Chaplain's talk. | 5 minutes. |
| (m) Closing Prayer. | |

(2) Explanation of Agenda.

N.C.R.M. Prayer.

"Through the intercession of Our Leader, Jesus Christ, in whose Name we strive for the salvation of the countryside, we pray that the fire of Christian life which we have enkindled, may consume the land, sweeping away every remnant of selfishness, of discord and of despair. May it create a new Australia of men and women who have —

Faith in the land.
Hope in the Movement, and
Charity in everything.

Mary, Help of Christians (Patroness of Australia), bless our endeavours to restore this fair countryside of Yours and Ours to Christ — Lord of the land and leader of men".

Decade of the Rosary.

This should be offered for the success of the N.C.R.M. and some special intention of the Group.

Objects of the N.C.R.M.

General Objectives.

- (a) The restoration to the members of the Catholic rural community of a sense of their dignity as such and of the esteem in which the Catholic Faith holds the man on the land.
- (b) To bring country Catholics together so that they may discuss the difficulties which militate against the prosperity and stability of the rural communities.
- (c) To analyse these difficulties in the light of Christian principles and to see what practical remedies are suggested by those Christian principles.
- (d) To infuse into country Catholics the determination to work out practical remedies for those difficulties and practical plans for arresting the drift to the cities and restoring more people to country districts, and for strengthening rural industry in its primary, secondary and tertiary aspects, thus forming a truly Christian rural society.
- (e) To collaborate with other people and organizations advocating sound measures to assist in the reconstruction of rural life.

Particular Objectives.

- (a) To assist in securing better conditions of life and work in rural areas and a just recompense for the vital economic and social services rendered by the rural population to the whole community. These objectives are to be secured by the spread of such institutions as rural co-operatives, credit unions, community farm settlements, rural education, co-operative rural medical services and whatever other means are appropriate to these ends.
- (b) To encourage and assist the rural population to obtain such technical knowledge, skill and craftsmanship as will be of use to them in their respective callings; to assist in promoting improved methods of agricultural production and marketing, a higher standard of proficiency in domestic economy and the increased practice of rural crafts and industries as part of a constructive policy of regionalism.
- (c) To form a well-instructed urban public opinion concerning the problems of rural life and the importance of these problems to the community as a whole and to secure the co-operation of urban consumers in solving such problems and in promoting the primary aims of the N.C.R.M.
- (d) To carry out the general work of Christian Social Action within the rural community.

Apologies.

Any member of a Group who is absent, without an apology, from three consecutive meetings of the Group may lose his eligibility for membership of the Group or any office of the N.C.R.M. during the calendar year concerned. (Constitution Section 7A(iv)).

Minutes of Last Meeting.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

Correspondence.

This will include reading the monthly Bulletin and any other communications from Headquarters, any letters from the Regional Secretary, and from other persons or organisations.

Gospel Discussion.

The Gospel discussion is limited to 20 minutes. Texts for discussion may be taken from:

- (a) "Social Survey".
- (b) The Sunday Gospel.
- (c) The Bible texts.
- (d) Knox-Cox Bible story or similar commentaries.

There are three elements in the Gospel Discussions: preparation beforehand; the discussion; and application of the lessons in our daily lives.

Every member of the Group is expected to read the passage over before the meeting and select two or three points that appeal to him for discussion. Any queries should be noted and the mind prepared for the actual discussion.

At the meeting, the text is read and the Gospel Discussion leader then comments on what seems most important to him. Each member then contributes to the discussion. If the Gospel discussion is to bear fruit, the lessons contained therein must be applied individually to those present. We must ask, "What does this aspect of Christ's life mean to me?" If we are to become soldiers of Christ, we must try to become more like our Divine Leader.

The Chaplain will then sum up the discussion; or if a priest is not present the leader will list the main points and the virtues we must strive to acquire.

The third part of the Gospel Discussion is the most important of all. Our effectiveness as Lay Apostles will depend on how we apply the lessons learnt in our dealings with our neighbour and in increasing our love of God.

Reports.

The reports should be brief and to the point and be regarded as a strict obligation. Someone should be responsible for reporting on each activity of the Group. Even if there is nothing to report, this should be recorded.

The reports give a valuable guide to the sphere of influence and the effectiveness of the Group's activities.

(i) Regional Council Report.

The delegates to the Regional Council should report to the Group after each meeting of the Council. The report (in writing) should include:

- (a) Summary of matters discussed.
- (b) Resolutions passed.
- (c) Action to be taken by the Group.

(ii) Membership.

It should be the aim of each Group to enrol as many members as possible in their area. The Bank Orders are the normal means of collecting subscriptions. Make sure that cash members are kept financial by collecting their subscription by 31st July each year.

(iii) **Finance.**

The Group's obligations to assist in raising finance for the administrative purposes of the N.C.R.M. should be carefully considered in terms of ways and means of fulfilling quotas, and making other donations.

(iv) **Public Organisations.**

This matter is discussed more fully in a later chapter. Reports on public organisations should include—

- (a) Lists of the Office-bearers.
- (b) Dates and times of meetings.
- (c) Resolutions moved or influenced by N.C.R.M. members.
- (d) Other resolutions or future activities.

(v) **Migration.**

Lists of migrants seeking placement are forwarded by Headquarters to Group Secretaries from time to time, or are available at Headquarters on request. Anyone knowing of accommodation or employment should contact Headquarters without delay indicating if there is anyone on the lists suitable, or requesting the names of other suitable persons. Reports on Migrant activities at the Group meeting should include—

- (a) Accommodation vacancies.
- (b) Employment vacancies.
- (c) New families arriving.
- (d) Means of assisting migrants.
- (e) Suggested action.

(vi) **Co-operatives.**

Reports on Co-operatives should include—

- (a) Time and place of Cottage Discussions.
- (b) Number of members, borrowers and investors.
- (c) Cash invested and on loan.
- (d) Plans for expansion.

(vii) **Other Reports.**

Organisation.

At this stage, the Group should consider any practical work to be done, such as putting in a crop of maize or wheat to raise finance; providing fencing wire or posts in bulk for cheaper distribution; drawing up a list of motions on the type of development needed for the district; arranging a working bee to clear the weeds from the Cemetery on All Souls' Day. The organisation of field days, retreats, training schools, publicity, etc., is also dealt with at this time.

Each member of the Group should take responsibility for one subject and before the next meeting move a suitable motion in some organisation to which he belongs.

For example, a member of the X.Y.Z. primary producer organisation may move at the next meeting of his organisation a motion urging a decrease in Tariffs on agricultural machinery.

A member of the Progress Association may move a motion urging the establishment of a small factory in the district to help provide work.

A councillor may urge the municipal council to extend electricity to rural areas at an equitable rate.

This list of subject matters is reviewed at each meeting and new matter added, always ensuring that each member has responsibility for one subject.

All other necessary tasks are allotted at this time.

General Business.

Education.

One of the most important parts of the meeting is the education period. The topic for discussion should be fixed in advance at each meeting so that every member may study the subject beforehand. The topic may be taken from—

- (a) "Rural Life".
- (b) "Social Survey".
- (c) "News-Weekly".
- (d) Convention Report.
- (e) Other reading matter recommended in Monthly Bulletins from Headquarters.

Study at meetings for a few months of such subjects as Land Settlement, Decentralisation and Immigration is also advocated.

It is suggested that the way to carry out the education session to the best advantage is to have one member prepare a five-minute talk summarising the main points of the article under discussion. Then the whole Group discusses the matter fully.

In this way, practice in public speaking is provided and members learn to think on their feet. At the same time, some Christian Social principles are examined.

Summary.

- Select topic at previous meeting.
- Read topic before meeting.
- Five-minute talk.
- Discussion.
- Select topic and speaker for next meeting.

Chaplain's Talk.

Closing Prayer.

II. PROCEDURE AT REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

(1) **Agenda.**

- N.C.R.M. Prayer.
- Objects of the N.C.R.M. (from Constitution).
- Apologies.
- Minutes of last meeting.
- Business arising from Minutes.
- Correspondence.
- Reports—
 - (i) National Executive.
 - (ii) Groups.
 - (iii) Regional Projects.
 - (iv) Organisations.
 - (v) Migration.
 - (vi) Co-operatives.
 - (vii) Other Reports.

Organisation: Opportunities for expanding membership, new Groups, delegates to Convention and National Executive.

Policy.

Action Programme for next quarter.

General Business.

Regional Chaplain's Address.

Closing Prayer.

(2) Explanation of Agenda.

The procedure for Regional Council meetings is basically the same as for Parish Groups. Reports are received from the National Executive and the Groups, and a review is made of regional projects in hand. Regions furnish the National Executive with a report each quarter.

Policy.

In accordance with National Executive decisions, the Regional Council should consider what aspects of general N.C.R.M. policy or specific projects authorised by National Executive, it intends to concentrate on during the coming quarter, e.g.,

- (a) Decentralisation of industry.
- (b) Land Settlement.
- (c) Migration.

The Council should also review what success was achieved in the last quarter in fostering the policies selected.

Action.

Having decided on the year's programme, quarter by quarter, the work involved in carrying out the various projects should be allotted to the Groups within the Region.

At each meeting a check should be taken to see if previous works have been carried out. The efficiency and morale of the Groups depend to a great extent on how successful the Regional Council is in maintaining a steady flow of activities for the members to carry out, and its supervision over the execution of those tasks.

Remember always that a brisk, businesslike meeting maintains interest and ensures efficiency!

CHAPTER VIII

DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS.

I. REGIONAL COUNCIL.

(1) EXECUTIVE.

- (i) President.
- (ii) Vice-President.
- (iii) Secretary.
- (iv) Assistant Secretary.

(2) SPECIAL WORKS.

- (i) Delegates to National Executive.
- (ii) Membership.
- (iii) Finance.
- (iv) Organisations.
- (v) Co-operatives.
- (vi) Education.
- (vii) Propaganda.
- (viii) Library.
- (ix) Editor of Bulletin.
- (x) Migration.
- (xi) Land Settlement.

II. PARISH GROUPS.

I. THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

The members of the Regional Council are elected annually.

(1) EXECUTIVE.

(i) President.

As the vine is, so shall be the branches. The role of the Regional President is much more than chairing occasional meetings. He is the layman singled out by his fellow Lay Apostles to represent, to guide and to encourage them. Under the Bishop, he has the responsibility of directing the front line of Christian social influence within the Region. He, more than any other lay member, can direct the goodwill and energies of the N.C.R.M. men and women in his Region so as to spread the Kingdom of Christ throughout the land. Much, therefore, will depend on the zeal and example shown by the Regional President.

Qualities. The Leader must be deeply convinced of the importance of the Lay Apostolate and of its primarily spiritual nature. He must understand that because the Lay Apostolate is a work of the Church, ALL AUTHORITY IN THE N.C.R.M. IS DERIVED FROM THE BISHOPS.

He must also be prepared to give unswerving loyalty to the Episcopal Chairman and his Regional Council.

As leader, he should have the ability to get things done through teamwork. While allowing full scope for discussion, each matter should be resolved and action taken, without disturbing harmony.

By his example, the leader should show he is prepared to further the cause of the Church either in or out of office, thinking solely of the cause and not of personal considerations.

Duties.

The President's first responsibility is to the members of the Regional Council. He should see that every delegate is well acquainted with the Apostolic spirit of the N.C.R.M., knows its field of operations, the techniques of the Lay Apostolate and most of all his own role in this work.

He should see that every member of the Council has some responsible task to fulfil and, where possible, that the individual suits the job.

He should arrange for as many members of the Council as possible to attend Training Schools in Melbourne.

He should see that all members of his Council attend an Annual Convention.

The President must encourage Parish Groups and see that the work of the Region is divided equitably between them.

It should be the constant aim of the President to consolidate existing Groups to form new ones and to build up the numbers in his Groups.

He must uphold the decisions of the Regional Council and of the National Executive, and see that all decisions of those bodies are carried out.

He must plan and co-ordinate the various Regional projects by meeting Committee leaders between Council meetings.

He must exercise authority in the Region, consistent with the Constitution, and see that all functions of the Region are carried out.

He must see that each Group is represented at Regional Council meetings and that delegates present a written report of the activities of their Group.

Chairmanship.

The President acts as Chairman at Regional Meetings and should always maintain Harmony, Enthusiasm and Efficiency. He should inform himself as to the procedure to be adopted in the conduct of meetings. This procedure is set out in the Appendix.

His chairmanship should be such that it will inspire confidence and free discussion.

Good efforts, whether successful or not, should always be commended by naming those concerned.

While taking full responsibility for the failures of any Committee, the President should give all credit for successes to the Leader and members of the Committees.

The President should encourage all members, but especially office-bearers, to view their Rural Movement activity as a Vocation, aiming at the highest degree of efficiency.

Discussion on political matters should be confined to matters which bear directly on N.C.R.M. policies. Further comment should be confined to factual statements.

As Chairman, the President should see that a decision is taken on every matter that comes before the Chair.

(ii) Vice-President.

The Vice-President is the deputy leader and is expected to show the same qualities and interest as the President. He should be the logical successor to the President and be able to take over from him when necessary.

Duties.

To give loyal support to the President in the execution of all his duties.

To be fully conversant with all activities of the Region.

To deputise for the President when he is unavoidably absent from meetings.

The Vice-President should help preserve harmony in the Council and offer loyal support to the President. Unnecessary conflict of opinion between these two officers may undermine unity and confidence.

The Vice-President may hold any other position concerning special works of the Council to which he may be appointed.

(iii) Secretary.

The position of Secretary is most important. Smooth working of the Council largely depends on his zeal and efficiency.

Duties.

Receive correspondence, and acknowledge.

Keep a record of all action taken on the correspondence.

Notify Council members of meetings at least two weeks in advance.

Arrange for a suitable meeting place.

Keep the minutes of Council Meetings.

Assist any Committees set up by the Council.

Work in close co-ordination with the Regional President.

Carry out all duties allotted to him by the Council.

Notify Headquarters of any important works being undertaken by the Council.

Keep the books of account of the Council.

(iv) Assistant Secretary.

If the Regional Secretary finds the pressure of work increasing, he may ask the Regional Council to appoint an Assistant Secretary. This will help to relieve the strain of answering correspondence and other secretarial duties.

Duties.

Assist Regional Secretary as directed.

Record the minutes of meetings of the Council.

(2) SPECIAL WORKS.

As well as those elected office-bearers, there are many other functions of the Regional Council to be fulfilled. Each Council should draw up a list of works to be undertaken. With limited resources, it is not wise to tackle every possible field of activity. By listing, in order of priority, the most suitable works, the Regional Council can best allocate the work to be done.

Having selected the fields of operation, the decision should then be made whether to appoint one member of the Council or a Committee to deal with each work. For example, one person might be appointed Librarian, while a Committee is appointed to handle Co-operative Societies.

Whoever is made responsible for a particular work of the Council should report activity at the quarterly meetings.

(i) **Delegates to National Executive.**

Each Region is entitled to have the Regional Chaplain and two lay delegates represented on the National Executive.

For the quarterly meetings, half the travelling expenses of one delegate from each interstate Regional Council will be paid by Headquarters, if desired.

Delegates may have placed on the agenda any matter that their Regional Council may wish discussed.

At each National Executive meeting, a written report on the activities of the Region is presented.

Delegates report the result of National Executive meetings to their Regional Councils for information, and implementation of decisions where necessary.

(ii) **Membership.**

The sphere of influence of the N.C.R.M. depends on the number of members in the parish. It is most important that all Catholics in the parish, not only Group members, have a knowledge of the Rural Movement's activities. All Groups should aim at 100% financial membership and take the steps necessary to achieve this.

Sign up as many members as possible on Bank Order forms, which automatically collects the subscription annually.

Collect cash memberships regularly each year.

Arrange for members to visit nearby parishes on Rural Sunday (which falls within the Octave of the Feast of the Ascension) and with the permission of the Parish Priest, speak to the people after Mass on the work of the N.C.R.M.

(iii) **Finance.**

To raise the necessary administrative expenses, the Regional Council charges a small affiliation fee for all Groups in the Region. If this sum does not satisfy the demands of petty cash, the Council may strike a further levy on the Groups, or, alternatively, arrange a function.

Finance for special works other than administration may be raised by any means deemed suitable by the Council.

Some suggestions for ways of raising finance for Regional or Headquarters purposes already being used by different Groups and regions may prove useful in other areas:—

Annual Ball. In the Warrnambool Region (Vic.) each year an N.C.R.M. Ball is held at Crossley. Proceeds are used for various works in the district, such as providing the Catholic School with latest educational aids and, as a contribution to Headquarters' funds.

Agricultural Crops. On the Far South Coast of N.S.W., the Cobargo Group each year clears an area of land, sows down pasture on the block and grows a crop of maize. The land is made available by a farmer free of charge and the crop taken off.

In return, the farmer has his land cleared and returned to him fully pastured. Portion of the proceeds of the sale of the maize crops has been used to extend accommodation at the convent boarding school and thus allow more children from outlying areas to attend.

In the Victorian and Riverina Wheat Belts crops of wheat have been taken off areas of land made available by local residents. Proceeds of the crops were used for various purposes, including the building of a new church. In the Western District, Victoria, when money was required for particular projects, local members have grown an extra acre of peas, onions or potatoes, and donated the proceeds to the N.C.R.M.

Social Functions. Card Parties have been found an adequate source of funds for special works by the Winslow (Vic.) Group in Western Victoria.

House Parties sometimes help swell the funds of the Region.

Street Stalls (e.g., Albury) also have been found profitable by many Groups.

In Terang (Vic.), Clay Pigeon Shoots have proved successful means of raising money.

Cash Donations. During the New South Wales Flood Relief Campaign conducted by the N.C.R.M., as well as contributions of hay and clothing, many donations of money were received by Regional Secretaries. In specific cases, like this, a direct appeal for funds often elicits support.

(iv) **Organisations.**

List all organisations in the Region under the following headings:

- (a) Occupational, e.g., X.Y.Z. Primary Producers' Association.
- (b) Civic, e.g., Municipal Council.
- (c) Regional, e.g., X.Y. Development League.
- (d) Political, e.g., Country Party.
- (e) Social and Cultural, e.g., W.E.A. Discussion Groups.

Keep an up-to-date register of these organisations and their works. A few headings are suggested:

- (a) Aims and objects.
- (b) Number of members.
- (c) Office-bearers.
- (d) When and how elections are conducted.
- (e) Representation on State bodies.
- (f) When and where meetings are held.
- (g) Activities.
- (h) Any representatives on State bodies.

Ascertain from all Group members what organisations they belong to and if they hold office. Forward to Headquarters the names of members in State or Federal bodies who hold executive positions.

This work of analysing organisations should be conducted in close consultation with the President and Regional Secretary.

Arrange at each meeting of the Regional Council to have two or three subjects on policy canvassed by Groups in all suitable organisations during the coming quarter.

(v) **Co-operatives.**

As the number of Co-operative Societies in the Region increases, it is most important that a Director or a Committee be appointed to co-ordinate their activities. Although each Co-operative will have an individualistic character, and particular experience, valuable assistance can be given to each other, especially in formative stages.

The duties of a Director or Committee are to:—

- (a) Be fully conversant with Co-operative history, procedure, legislation, and means of educating others in Co-operative principles.
- (b) Endeavour to promote collaboration between the various Co-operative Societies.
- (c) Arrange for the formation of new Co-operatives.
- (d) Regularly report to National Headquarters on the development of existing Co-operatives in the Region.

(vi) **Education.**

The task of directing the education programme of Groups in the Region is necessarily a difficult one. Obviously Groups and individual members will differ widely according to age, experience, education standard and length of time in the N.C.R.M.

There are, however, certain basic fields of education that should at some stage or other be covered by all members.

These may be summarised under the following heads:

(1) **PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL ACTION, e.g. —**

Papal Encyclicals.
Social Justice Statements.

(2) **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF AUSTRALIA, e.g. —**

Australia and Asia.
Challenge facing Australia.

(3) **CONCRETE POLICIES OF THE N.C.R.M., e.g. —**

Economic.
Social.
Agricultural.

(4) **TECHNIQUES OF RURAL ACTION, e.g. —**

Co-operatives.

Any Committee charged with the problem of ensuring adequate education of members, then, should see:

That all Groups study the objectives, structure and administrative machinery of the N.C.R.M.

That each Group has, according to its needs, a definite study programme drawn from reliable sources.

That all members are conversant with current problems and the suggested solution to them, based on Christian principles.

That as many members as possible attend Training Schools.

That every means possible of spreading N.C.R.M. policies throughout the community are used.

(vii) **Propaganda.**

The spread of Christian ideas among Catholics and the general community is an important part of the Apostolate. The leader of a Committee for this purpose should:

Direct the activities of his Committee in a continuous drive for new subscribers to "Rural Life", "Social Survey", and the weekly newspaper with a Christian outlook, "News Weekly".

Receive and make arrangements for sale and distribution of all publications of Australian Catholic Publications.

Train his assistants in sales techniques, e.g., Church-door sales;

Personal Canvass or sales at other meetings.

Act on his own authority in obtaining assistance to distribute literature, either for sale or free distribution.

Record accurately all literature received, amount sold, amount given away, and quantity on hand.

Report at Regional Council Meetings results of sales drives.

(viii) **Library.**

A reference library on Catholic Rural Sociology and other allied topics is a valuable asset in a region. In a later Chapter, suggestions are made for compiling such a Library.

The duties of Librarian can be summarised under the following points:

Collect and index suitable books, periodicals and journals.

Circulate to all Groups a list of all available literature.

Arrange distribution of books and periodicals on loan.

Keep a record of all loans.

Arrange exchange of libraries with other Regions if desired.

(ix) **Editor of Bulletin.**

In some Regions, the office of Librarian is linked with that of Editor of a Quarterly Bulletin. In the Wagga Region, the contents of the Bulletin have been laid down by the Council so that the following matters are included:—

(a) Report of the Regional Council Meeting.

(b) Notes on activities of Groups.

(c) Short policy extracts from Convention Report, etc.

(d) Progress of Regional projects, e.g., San Isidore Settlement.

(e) List of available reading.

(f) Short spiritual notes.

The Bulletin is intended for each financial member in the Region and a copy for other Regional and/or Group Secretaries in the Diocese. The task of the Editor of the Bulletin is to:

Prepare the Bulletin.

Have the requisite number of copies duplicated.

Arrange for postage to members.

(x) **Migration.**

Keep a record of C.A.R.A. Migrant Settlement lists (i.e., those supplied by the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee) and the lists of persons seeking employment. These lists are available from Headquarters.

Try to locate empty homes that may be available for migrant families.

Try to obtain employment for any of the persons on the lists.

Obtain nominations when any opportunity occurs. Make sure that potential settlers are listed by the nominator in order of preference in case the first named has been placed elsewhere.

Notify Headquarters immediately if any opportunities occur, together with full details of accommodation, type of work, wages, experience required.

When any new settlers are placed, arrange to welcome them and assist in any way possible, so that their new homes may be happy ones.

(xi) **Land Settlement.**

Regional Councils are encouraged to promote land settlement schemes in their region. In the Upper Murray River Region some 200 acres of Crown land were purchased and divided into two farms by a Co-operative set up for the purpose.

In the Terang-Camperdown Region, a member made available 300 acres for development. Members undertook to assist the settler with equipment and seed.

Regions should assist to expand the Primary Produce Gift Scheme, and to encourage settlers to take advantage of it.

Regional Councils can do much to promote land settlement which should be regarded as a challenge to their initiative and energies.

II. PARISH GROUPS.

The only executive positions in the Parish Group are the President, Vice-President and Secretary who are elected in March each year. Their duties are modelled on those of the executive members of the Regional Council. What the Regional President is to the Region, the President of the Parish Group is to the Parish.

Since the local Groups are the front line of the Lay Apostolate, it is most important that suitable special works drawn from those listed above are always being put into action by the Parish Group.

Success in the institutional apostolate, migration and co-operatives will depend on the interest shown at the Group meetings and the manner in which Christian policies are applied to the district.

National problems can be solved by solving the problems of your district. If each Parish, where there is a N.C.R.M. Group, fully reflected a strong Christian influence in the community, the over-all effect throughout Australia would be electrifying.

CHAPTER IX. WOMEN IN THE N.C.R.M.

The farm, run on N.C.R.M. lines, must be a family unit, in which the wife and mother holds a very important position. She should take an active interest in the farm work and problems, and run the home to fit in with the time-table and activities of the farm.

Most importantly, she is the one who guides the children's attitudes to religion, farm work and country living, and who is the intermediary between Father and growing and grown-up sons. In this capacity alone, she can do untold good, or harm.

Also, by joining organisations in towns and cities, country women have the opportunity of influencing the thinking of city people.

To get the maximum interest and drive from male N.C.R.M. members, the women must be educated and organised to co-operate with them in their work.

In "Fire on the Earth" (Manifesto of the Women's Groups), it is stated:—

That the Women's Groups of the N.C.R.M. shall work for —

- "1. The acceptance of the welfare of the Family as the Controlling Factor in National Life and Planning.
- "2. The recognition of the Home as the centre of Christian Family Living.
- "3. The wider spread of Home-Making Skills and Household Amenities among Rural Women.
- "4. The provision of all possible Services for Country Mothers.
- "5. The reform of Rural Education to make it a True Training for Christian Rural Living.
- "6. The spread of the Independent Farming Ideal.
- "7. Co-operation between Christian Families to build a Christian Rural Community.

"Though the points are seven in number, they could in fact all be reduced to one — and that one Point 1, For it will be obvious that all these things are aimed at one end — the building of a nation composed of millions of individual families so solidly Christian that every institution of that nation — from its highest organ of government to its smallest country store-keeper — will have as its standard of judgment in law-making, business dealings, overseas trade and the rest — "How will this affect the welfare of this nation of families?" For, said the present Holy Father in the very first Encyclical issued during his Pontificate, the family is the primary and essential cell of society . . . and men and their families have a priority over the State in the natural order of things.

A SPECIAL TASK FOR WOMEN.

"It is thoroughly in accord with Catholic principles also that an organisation of women should take this very thing as the be-all and end-all of its existence. For on every occasion on which he has spoken to

gatherings of women, the present Holy Father has kept insisting that women themselves must go out and fight for the welfare of the family, for only in the society which is based on a true appreciation and regard for Christian family life can women maintain and enhance that 'God-given dignity of womankind . . . the dignity which she has only from God and in God'.

"It is to this central thing then — the restoring of the family to its rightful place at the head of modern society — that the women of the N.C.R.M. are pledged. It is with this in the forefront of their minds that they have formulated their own 7-point programme of action; it is to spread to every possible corner of the Commonwealth this truth that they will go into organisations everywhere, that they will bring influence and moral pressure to bear on persons and organisations everywhere, until at last, with the help of God, and with the active assistance of other sections of the Lay Apostolate throughout Australia, we shall see around us a nation, 'confirmed in liberty and dedicated to the proposition . . .

THAT THE FAMILY IS THE PRIMARY AND ESSENTIAL CELL OF ANY SOCIETY AND THAT MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES HAVE A PRIORITY OVER THE STATE IN THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.'"

In the sphere of public organisations, there is a vast field where women can work by themselves. The Country Women's Association springs to mind immediately. This body holds tremendous influence in any community, and even in government circles. Over the years, countless resolutions, influenced by N.C.R.M. members, have been passed and acted upon, by State and Federal conferences. The C.W.A. can also provide facilities for young mothers and children and aged folk, as well as public amenities in rural towns. Other public organisations deserving support are Good Neighbour Councils, High School Mothers' Clubs, Municipal Councils, Cultural Organisations, etc.

Inside the Catholic community, N.C.R.M. members can provide Library services, vocational schools for out-back children, take city children and mothers for holidays, help to lighten the burden of overworked country mothers, see that every home and farm in the community is consecrated, assist in welcoming migrants and newcomers into the parish, visit the sick and the aged, and, in general, help to carry on all the local charities that help to make country dwelling easier and happier.

Country girls, as well as boys, are drifting to the city, and it should be the responsibility of women to try to stop it. Children could be sent to secondary schools nearest their homes, so that they do not lose contact with local friends.

Catholic women can help to combat bad advertisements in papers and shops, and immoral stories and records on the radio, by persistent vigilance and complaint, and encouraging their replacement by healthy reading and entertainment.

To the women of the N.C.R.M., the words of Caroline Chisholm ring just as true today — "No number of clergy, school teachers or policemen could have the influence on society as could be wielded by God's policemen, wives and little children".

CHAPTER X

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY YOUTH MOVEMENT

The special needs of rural youth have led to the establishment of the Christian Country Youth Movement (C.C.Y.M.) as the official Catholic Action Movement in which they can play their part in the apostolic activity of the Church.

This brief outline of the C.C.Y.M. is placed in the N.C.R.M. Handbook because we realize that youth is only one phase in the life of a Christian, and that one day he must pass on to the adult Lay Apostolate Movements, and of these, the relevant one in rural areas is the N.C.R.M.

It is to our mutual advantage that these two Movements should work in mutual co-operation and understanding, one supporting the other. The Rural Movement can greatly assist the C.C.Y.M. particularly by sponsoring Branches and helping them to become established; by their interest and their support when called upon. Youth is not fully mature, and needs encouragement, support and formation; much of this should come from the adult Lay Apostolate organizations, without however, those organizations becoming domineering. "On the other hand, the Youth Movement will be the main recruiting ground for new members for the N.C.R.M. It will give its members a solid training and formation, which will prepare them to take their place in the adult organizations as active members." It will introduce them to the activities of the N.C.R.M. AND ENCOURAGE members, when they no longer feel they "belong" to the youth Movement, to graduate into the adult Movement.

OBJECTIVES.

"The Objective of the Christian Country Youth Movement shall be two-fold, Ultimate and Immediate.

- (a) The Ultimate Objective shall be the Extension of the Kingdom of Christ on earth.
- (b) The Primary Immediate Objective of the Movement shall be the Christianizing of society of which youth forms an important part, thus making it possible for young people to live a full Christian life. The Secondary Immediate Objective of the Movement shall be the intellectual, cultural, social and physical improvement of its Members." — (C.C.Y.M. Official Handbook, Page 17.)

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership is open to all Catholic young people of both sexes. From these shall be drawn the Leaders, who, together with the Spiritual Director, shall form the Executive. An Associate Membership is permitted for APPROVED non-Catholics; approval must be given by the Spiritual Director and by the Executive. Associate Members are not eligible for any Office of the Movement.

EXECUTIVE.

The Executive may consist of both boys and girls. Half the full number of the Executive is elected by the General Members. Those elected, together with the Spiritual Director, elect those required to make up the full Executive. The number of Executive Members would be 8, 10 or 12, according to the number of General Members in the Branch.

MEETINGS.

The Executive should meet every week. This Meeting will follow the Agenda of the Handbook and include a Gospel Discussion, Reports on work done, Census information, Enquiry, Spiritual Director's Talk, Appointments of work to be done before the next Meeting, and other Business concerning the Branch.

A General Meeting of Members should also be held weekly. This falls into three parts: the Business Meeting, the Syllabus Item, and Recreation. In the Business Meeting, the Minutes of the previous Meeting are read. Reports on Branch Activities are given, suggestions may be put forward, and Motions are dealt with. The Syllabus Item is a prepared item which lasts about 45 minutes. It will vary from light to very serious matters; examples are given in the C.C.Y.M. Handbook. The Syllabus Items should be organised by the members and the Executive, and sometimes it will be necessary to obtain the Spiritual Director's advice and assistance, too. The final part of the Meeting consists of Recreation — something normal and essential in the life of youth.

HOW TO START A BRANCH.

A Branch of the C.C.Y.M. can only be started with the approval and support of the Parish Priest. When there is a group of four or five or more young people interested in forming a youth organization in a parish, the Priest explains to them the ideals, the benefits and the necessity of the Lay Apostolate, and introduces them slowly to the technique of Gospel Discussions and Enquiries. During this time, they can be actively occupied by taking a Census of the youth of the town, so that when the Priest and the Leaders are feeling confident enough to launch a Branch, they can contact all the youth eligible for membership and encourage them to attend and become members of the Branch.

When the time is ripe, a General Meeting of all the youth of the Parish is called; they may be invited by letter, but also by personal contact by the Leaders. At the first General Meeting, the aims, ideals and organization of the C.C.Y.M. may be explained by the Priest and Leaders. At that Meeting, or at the next one, an Executive Committee consisting of President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Warden is elected by the Members. This number is built up by the group which the Priest has already been training, to number about 8 or 10, according to the number of Members. From then on, the Official Handbook of the C.C.Y.M. should be strictly followed. Efforts should be made to observe the ideal of Weekly General Meetings and Weekly Executive Meetings.

ORGANIZATION.

When a number of Branches are established in an area, they may form a Zonal Committee to co-ordinate inter-Branch visits and other common activities, for example, a Zonal Rally, a Zonal Sports Day. Where several Zones exist, a Diocesan Council should be formed, and that Council would also represent the Diocese on the National Executive of the C.C.Y.M.

CO-OPERATION.

In particular, how can the N.C.R.M. and the C.C.Y.M. co-operate on a practical level, in a Parish?

- (a) Where there is need for a youth organization in a parish, the N.C.R.M. can encourage and aid the formation of the C.C.Y.M.
- (b) Where a C.C.Y.M. Branch already exists, the N.C.R.M. can show interest in its activities, and give practical support where possible; for example, help in organizing functions, in approaching higher authorities, by providing speakers, etc. It should not be forgotten, however, that the C.C.Y.M. is a Youth Movement, and as far as possible should be organized and controlled by youth. Domineering influences would not be appreciated.
- (c) C.C.Y.M. Members can be invited to special N.C.R.M. functions, such invitations serving as an introduction to the Rural Movement.
- (d) By following its Official Handbook strictly, the C.C.Y.M. will be giving a solid foundation formation to all its members, especially to those of Executive experience, so that they will be qualified to take their place comfortably in the Senior Movement. Hearing capable speakers on behalf of the N.C.R.M. at the C.C.Y.M. Meetings occasionally, and participating in special N.C.R.M. functions will assuredly draw youth into the Adult Movement.
- (e) As members leave the Youth Movement, a special appeal should be made to them to continue their apostolic activity in the N.C.R.M. Savings invested in the C.C.Y.M. Savings Scheme can be transferred to Credit Unions or Housing Co-operatives which are a logical follow-on.

May this co-operation and understanding between our two Movements be blessed by God, and prove fruitful in effective apostolic work, for the Enrichment of His Kingdom.

PART III.

THE TECHNIQUES OF THE LAY APOSTOLATE IN RURAL AREAS

CHAPTER XI.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF SOCIETY

- I. Nature of Social Action.
- II. Social Pressures.
- III. Classification of Institutions —
 - (1) Occupational.
 - (2) Civic.
 - (3) Regional.
 - (4) Political.
 - (5) Social and Cultural.
- IV. Influencing Public Opinion —
 - (1) Forming Public Opinion.
 - (2) Ensuring Necessary Action.
 - (3) Participating in That Action.
- V. Summary.

(I) NATURE OF SOCIAL ACTION

In his Encyclical on Reconstructing the Social Order, "Quadragesimo Anno", Pope Pius XI stated —

"The public institutions of the nations must be such as to make the whole of human society conform to the common good — that is, to the standard of Social Justice. If this is done, the economic system, that most important branch of social life, will necessarily be restored to sanity and right order."

One of the most important features of the Lay Apostolate in Australia has been the work of the Institutional Apostolate. The task of permeating the institutions of public life with Christian influence is being carried out continuously in an effort to win these institutions to the standard of Social Justice.

Where Social Justice is not practised in a public institution, disorder and social pressure necessarily follow. The removal of disorder and the relieving of "Social Pressures" are the proper objects of the activities of the Lay Apostolate.

(II) SOCIAL PRESSURES

To know what are the main "Social Pressures" mitigating against economic order that have a bad effect in the moral order against family life, where better could we turn for analysis than to Christ's Vicar on earth, himself?

His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, has analysed these "Social Pressures" of modern society for us at different times. He condemns —

The precarious state of small **Agriculture** and **Industry**.

The constant all absorbing increase of **big industries** with the resultant growth of class warfare.

The excessive concentration of populations in **cities**.

The employment of **married women in industry** arising often from insufficiency of family wages, with the resultant break-up of the home.

The insatiable claims of the "**social service**" **State**.

The deplorable unsuitability of much modern **education** considered as a preparation of the young girl for life.

False sense of values inculcated by modern organs of propaganda — press, radio, films, television, etc.

Many of these "Social Pressures" are concerned with the rural community. Their relief can only come from introducing the standards of Social Justice into rural institutions. To each, a remedy must be applied.

In order to stop the growth of cities, land settlement and rural industries must be developed. To remedy inadequate housing, Co-operative Building Societies must be organised. To replace the false sense of values inculcated by press and radio articles, letters, reports and interviews expressing Christian social principles must appear in the press and be heard on the air continuously.

This is the proper task of the N.C.R.M.—to carry out such projects as these and apply the antidote to our disordered society. The first stage in this programme is to mobilize Public Opinion around policies put forward in the institutions of rural society. Each institution is useful in so far as it conforms to this end. It is important to realise that Governmental policy is influenced considerably by the policies and activities of the various public institutions. Hence, they are links in the democratic chain between the individual and Government.

(III) CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS

The organisation and institutions of society in country areas may be classified under five headings apart from strictly religious bodies —

Occupational.

Civic.

Regional.

Political.

Social and Cultural.

(1) Occupational.

The most natural grouping of all is that based on occupation. People tend to come together with those engaged in similar work. Farmers' organisations, while not found universally in country areas, are fairly well established. The Wheat & Woolgrowers' Federation, the Farmers' & Settlers' Association, the Australian Primary Producers' Union, and the Victorian Dairyfarmers' Association are examples of organisations based on occupation.

Also included in this category are The Chamber of Commerce, the local branch of the Australian Railways Union, the Postal Workers' Union and many other Trade Union branches.

These organisations are vital to rural society. They provide a sounding board of public opinion and, very often, decisions made by these bodies affect the daily lives of the community. Through local branches, ideas requiring action at a State or Federal level can be brought before higher branches of these bodies.

The main purpose for the existence of occupational organisations is to safeguard the interests of members and to undertake enterprises for mutual gain.

In the same Encyclical, "Quadragesimo Anno", Pope Pius XI has this to say of vocational groups —

"These groups, in a true sense autonomous, are considered to be, if not essential to civil society, at least its natural and spontaneous development."

(2) Civic.

Civic or Municipal bodies are those freely open to membership by people living within a given area. Such organisations have diverse aims usually connected with some public service.

For example: The main civic organisations in rural life are the Municipal and Shire Councils. The Councils are elected by ratepayers living within the respective boundaries. They are incorporated under the Local Government Act (in each State) and have wide administrative and legislative powers affecting the daily lives of the people.

Progress Associations are another form of civic activity. These organisations vary widely in their scope and usefulness. Many are stagnant, while others offer many opportunities to advance the development of the district. A good example of what can be achieved by such bodies is found in Yarrowonga, Vic. This fine Murray River town has developed a Community Picture Theatre, cleared the lake of snags, promoted aquatic sports and beautified the foreshores of the river, all through community co-operation.

Provision is made in N.S.W. and Victoria for Community Advancement Societies under the Co-operation Act. These societies are geared to carry out any civic functions, such as providing electricity, swimming pools, community hotels, abattoirs, local housing and many other useful functions.

Public Committees set up in time of stress or disaster, such as those Committees instituted to control flood relief in the Hunter Valley (N.S.W.) are also primarily civic organisations.

Bodies such as Agricultural Show Societies and Public Libraries are also very important.

(3) Regional.

Organisations with a wider scope than local civic bodies may be classified as Regional.

The Murray Valley Development League and the New England New State Movement are examples of Regional organisations. They cover very large areas, and have as their objective the development of a certain area by the use of certain means they specify — the formation of a new State and Regional Development.

The Murray and Murrumbidgee Water Users' Association is another typical Regional body. It represents the views of irrigators to the State and Federal Governments and urges any necessary action. Agitation for

the building of the Blowering Dam near Tumut so that the waters of the Snowy River may be fully utilized along the Murrumbidgee, provides a good example.

The Riverine Councils' University League, consisting of representatives of Local Government bodies in the Riverina and South-West areas of N.S.W., is also a good example of districts banding together for a common objective. The need for a Rural University in the Riverina is urged by the League.

By supporting such Regional bodies, N.C.R.M. members show their interest in Regional development.

(4) Political.

What should be the attitude of the member of the National Catholic Rural Movement to political activity?

It is impossible for the objectives of the N.C.R.M. — as outlined in its literature and as summarised in our leaflet, "What We Stand For", to be achieved without legislation, government policy, government regulation, all of which are aspects and subjects of political activity. Quite a number of N.C.R.M. objectives can be achieved through the action of individuals and the voluntary action of local associations, including co-operatives. However, the most important and the most far-reaching cannot be achieved except through the action of governments.

The N.C.R.M. is not a party political organisation. That is to say, it does not direct its members to support any political party. It has supra-political objectives, that is to say, objectives which are moral and national but which, if they are to be effective, can only be achieved through the agency of political life.

Within the N.C.R.M. there are members of every legitimate political party. The primary rule of action of the N.C.R.M. members is that everyone who is a supporter of a legitimate political party should be an active member of that party.

This involves the great majority of N.C.R.M. members. The floating vote in Australia is only five or six per cent. This indicates that more than 90 per cent. of Australian voters, including members of the N.C.R.M., have made up their minds politically as far as voting is concerned. All that the N.C.R.M. says to those who have made up their minds is that activity on polling day is not enough. It is a duty consequent upon N.C.R.M. membership that every supporter of a political party should be an active member of that party.

The reason for this is clear. The person who is active only in casting his vote on polling day can simply indicate a preference between two accomplished facts. He has no say in the type of policy adopted by the party of his choice. This is decided at State and Federal Conferences of that party and ultimately at local branch meetings. He has no say in the identity of candidates selected. This task of selection is performed either through the machinery of pre-selection or at electorate conventions. The member of the N.C.R.M. has a duty to exercise his full citizen rights and actively to participate in the making of policy and the selection of the candidates of the party of his choice.

This involves constant and meticulous attention to the local machinery of his party. It is often boring and frustrating work. Yet, unless a person is ready to undertake it faithfully, conscientiously and permanently, he is not a good member of his particular party and others are entitled to question his bona fides if he turns up only at vital meetings.

If this attitude of the N.C.R.M. is faithfully carried out by all of its members, there will be good N.C.R.M. members active at branch levels in every party. What should be their attitude to the party to which they belong? What should be their attitude to each other?

The N.C.R.M. member owes a duty of loyalty to his political party. He should be faithful to its policies and activities, even if it involves strong criticism of other parties. Political controversy is not only legitimate: it is a basic method of parliamentary democracy.

However, it is also true that no man can give any party his ultimate loyalty. He must be faithful to fundamental moral principles and to certain national interests, in the field of defence, foreign affairs, national development, economic policy, etc. — principles and interests which precede partisan loyalty to any political party.

If a democracy is to function, there must be an essential unity between the major parties as to objectives. The differences as far as possible should relate only to means.

The member of the N.C.R.M. has a clear-cut and coherent set of objectives listed, in particular, in "What We Stand For". These objectives are not peculiarly Catholic, in a sectional sense. They are not even peculiarly Christian, in a sectional sense. The great bulk of them, if not all of them, derive from natural law which is as inherent in the Moslem as in the Christian. Hence it is natural that the N.C.R.M. member will discover a large area of agreement between himself and non-Catholics in the political party of his choice.

Together with these non-Catholics, the attitude of all members of the N.C.R.M. in all political parties should be to infuse Christian objectives and the principles underlying them into the policies of the various parties, so that the largest possible area of agreement between all of the political parties will be established on the basis of Christianity and natural law.

This is particularly necessary at the present day when politics tend to become only a reflection of economic interests. The normal situation is that the Liberal Party finds itself under heavy pressure from the Chamber of Manufactures, the Chamber of Commerce and other sectional commercial interests. The Labor Party finds itself under heavy pressure from the trade unions. The Country Party finds itself under heavy pressure from farmers' organisations. This is a quite natural development and should not surprise anyone. However, its logical consequence is for the economic and other policies of the parties to represent, not the national interest, but only the sectional economic interest of the dominant group. As these are superficially, in the short run — but not truly and in the long run — in conflict, the area of disagreement between parties becomes wider and wider and the bitterness greater and greater through avarice and cupidity.

It is vitally necessary, therefore, if the democratic process is not to be ultimately fatal to national unity, as it has been so very often in the past, that there should be a leaven of unity within all political parties counteracting the disintegrating force of sectional economic interests.

The N.C.R.M. should be one of those leavens if it is faithful to the injunctions outlined above.

(5) Social and Cultural.

One of the strongest integrating forces of society is the large number of voluntary social and cultural organisations linking people in the bond of common interests. These organisations are doubly important

in rural Australia because of the isolation of many farming communities. They supply a much felt need for companionship and social expression, particularly for women.

The Country Women's Association, the Red Cross, the Catholic Women's Social Guild, University Extension Board Discussion Groups, Choral and Debating Societies, Youth Clubs, and the various Church organisations are typical of the organisations in this field. As far as possible, they should be encouraged because they provide added interest to country life and prevent children or families from becoming discontented and so leaving the country for the bright city lights. The Country Women's Association in particular exerts tremendous influence in every community and is constantly bringing resolutions on social problems before Governments.

(IV) INFLUENCING PUBLIC OPINION.

Having classified the main types of public institutions found in society, we shall now consider the best method of influencing the members of society through them.

Our object should be perfectly clear: to Christianise the people in the community by forming their ideas on concrete social questions, ensuring that adequate action is taken at the necessary levels, and to participate, as far as possible, in this remoulding of society in a Christian pattern.

These are the three stages of activity —

Forming Public Opinion.

Ensuring Effective Action.

Participating in That Action.

All three should go on concurrently.

(1) Forming Opinion.

The first task is to list the organisations in a district and rank them in order of importance. Also, a record of N.C.R.M. members in each organisation, and whether or not they hold executive positions, should be maintained.

Secondly, draw up a list of positive proposals touching some aspect of rural or national development. For example, the development of Port facilities in places like Eden, N.S.W., and Portland, Vic.; the direction of private and public capital into rural development; the establishment of a Community Centre or Swimming Pool in a town; extension of Co-operative Housing Loans from Banks; the electrification of rural areas in the Region.

Carefully selecting one or two subjects, every member of the Group should undertake to have positive action taken at an appropriate meeting of some organisation to which he or she belongs. In this way, a focus of interest is thrown on to some local or national problem and appropriate action suggested.

If this action is synchronised throughout the whole Region, a wider effect is obtained. This agitation must be constant, not merely spasmodic, and should continue until the aim is achieved. People must be convinced that the action suggested is good; therefore, the reasons for such action should be given at the time. When Groups work out a campaign of action, care should be taken to see that members' efforts are not dissipated over too many fields.

(2) Ensuring Effective Action.

To ensure effective action, any motions passed should stipulate the responsible body to be approached by the organisation. It may be a matter for the local Council, e.g., swimming pool, new roads; or the local Member, e.g., freight concessions for a new local industry; or the responsible State Cabinet Minister, e.g., development of the Port of Eden.

At whatever level the motion is directed, the organisation should follow up the matter. If it has a State or Federal branch, its support should be enlisted. It is only by agitation and strong public support that action is certain.

(3) Participation in That Action.

Once a matter has been raised, members must be prepared to follow it through. If others see the main protagonists of a proposal unwilling to pursue the matter to its logical conclusion, they will not give their support.

Members, acting always as individuals, must be prepared to take executive positions, to serve on deputations and to assist in the important institutions in the community. Only a true apostolic spirit will enable us to spread Christian charity, in a positive way through institutions, to the hearts of men.

(V) SUMMARY

1. Analyse the institutions of your district.
2. Apply Christian policies to problems in your Region.
3. Take suitable action at outside meetings.
4. Specify the action to be taken.
5. Participate in all necessary action, right through to the conclusion.
6. In all things, show a spirit of charity.
7. All material benefits flowing from the work of the Lay Apostolate must be available to all persons irrespective of nationality, creed or religion.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

I. IN GENERAL.

II. THE PRESS.

- (1) Articles.
- (2) Prepared Statements.
- (3) Letters to the Editor.
- (4) Reports of Public Meetings.

III. RADIO.

- (1) News Items.
- (2) Interviews.

IV. TELEVISION.

I. IN GENERAL.

While condemning the false sense of values inculcated by the modern means of mass communication, Pope Pius XII has paid great tribute to the possible influence for good these same media may have.

Any false ideas or wrong beliefs held by the people cannot help having a detrimental effect on the social order, and consequently on family life. Dissemination of truth and order on the other hand can only lead to an increase in the happiness of people, and the relief of "Social Pressures" arising from the structure of society.

Everything that can be done to educate Australians in constructive thinking and to win their support for sound developmental policies contributes to the good of the nation.

Because the social policy of the Church is based on the moral law and the teachings of Christ, it follows that the application of these social principles to Australia must result in the eradication of many moral evils and help to create a truly Christian society founded on Social Justice.

Before the institutions of the countryside can be reformed, Catholics and non-Catholics alike must know and be convinced of the positive solutions the Church offers the present-day problems. This will only be achieved when soundly educated Lay Apostles, having studied these policies, win support for each measure through their local press, radio, public organisations and by their personal influence.

In accomplishing this general education of the community in positive Christian policies, there must be some starting point. The place to begin is right at home in the Group.

Every member of every Group should develop a good understanding of the N.C.R.M.'s policies.

Next, make contact with influential people who may be able to assist. Call on the editor of your local paper, the manager of your Regional Broadcasting Station and try to win their interest. Usually they are only too pleased to receive interesting "copy" for publishing or broadcasting.

The real work of providing the material for publication then remains. The extent of the Group's influence on "Public Opinion" may readily be gauged by the success achieved in having motions carried,

letters and articles published, sessions and talks broadcast, and by the successful execution of projects in such as agriculture, migration and Co-operatives.

The possible ways of using the local press and radio for the dissemination of ideas are many. Each Group member should attempt to use all these opportunities that apply in his district.

In all this work, the individual member is assisted by the Group in terms of knowledge, technique of going about a task, and determination in commencing a job and seeing it through.

II. THE PRESS.

The various ways of using the press to spread ideas can be considered under four points:—

Articles.
Prepared Statements.
Letters to the Editor.
Reports of Public Meetings.

(1) Articles.

When considering the submission of prepared articles for publication by local magazines of primary producers' organisations, see that the proposed article is well informed, well compiled, and checked by some responsible person. The article should also be interesting, current and embody some social principle.

For example: A plague of grasshoppers in Western N.S.W. prompted one N.C.R.M. member to write an article on the development of that area by irrigation and the latest farming techniques, allied with some suggestions for controlling the present menace by methods he had read about in an overseas journal, and which had proved effective. This article was published in the local paper and was subsequently reprinted in several others.

Topics. Everyone can think of many ideas suitable for developing into a short article. Condensing some article that appears in "Rural Life" or "Social Survey" may provide useful information that could well be submitted under the name of a member of the Group.

The main point in writing such articles is to select the topic and write about it as simply as possible. And keep on submitting articles; some of them are sure to be published.

(2) Prepared Statements.

From time to time, the Regional Council or a Parish Group may find it necessary to publish a statement on some project being undertaken. In such cases, the Secretary should submit a prepared statement for publication in the appropriate newspapers.

Such a case would arise when a Co-operative Society was to be formed. Once the preliminary discussions were over and the inaugural meeting was decided upon, the Group would submit a statement outlining the purposes of the Society, explaining who were eligible to become members, as well as other relevant details.

Prepared statements will not often be necessary. It is preferable to have articles submitted under the name of the member rather than the Group.

At times, a protest on some social injustice in the community may very well be the subject of a prepared statement by a Group. For example: An article was submitted to the press by the Yass (N.S.W.) Group dealing with the dangers arising from the building of sub-standard homes in the country by Government agencies. From this protest made locally, the matter was taken up elsewhere and was finally considered by Cabinet.

(3) Letters to the Editor.

Public Opinion Polls have shown consistently that one of the most popular features of newspapers is the "Letters to the Editor" column. Letters provide one of the few specific guides to public opinion that Editors have. In fact, letters may act as a corrective to editorial bias or distorted news items. Newspaper proprietors themselves attach much value to letters, since they reflect the attitude of the thinking public.

As a medium for presenting a Christian interpretation of events and for correcting opinions expressed by others, letters to the editor are extremely valuable. With time and energy employed in drafting them, a steady stream of Christian ideas can be placed before the public.

Points on Letter Writing.

(a) Subject.

In writing letters to the Editor, do not wait for someone else to start a controversy. Take the initiative, and carry the attack against some social problem, or any wrong ideas expressed by some prominent figure.

Do not take up a defensive position, all the time waiting for someone else to begin. There should not be any dearth of subjects. Choose one from "Rural Life" or "News Weekly". Both are good sources of information on subjects of national and international importance. The subject matter should be factual, with good references where possible.

(b) Style.

The style should be clear and concise. A brief letter on the point often receives preference from the sub-editors. Each point should be made clearly; each paragraph should represent one aspect and each sentence on thought. The whole letter should be on one central theme and should not range over several topics. It is often useful in longer letters to make the last paragraph a summary.

(c) Approach.

A positive approach to a subject has more hope of winning support and influencing opinion than mere controversy. If a subject is controversial, and the writer is not too sure of the right policy, he should discuss the matter with the President of the Group or submit the matter to Headquarters for advice. If writing in answer to other letters, do not delay, because subjects soon become dead unless answers are prompt. To be effective, propaganda letters must be regular and abundant as well as presenting a positive Christian approach, so that they will neutralise the effect of other wrong ideas.

(d) Presentation.

Letters should be typed, where possible; otherwise, they should be neatly written and easily readable. Bad or careless writing receives little editorial notice.

It is a good idea for some prominent or well-informed person to write frequently so that the name becomes well known and readers watch for his letters.

Place names and surnames should be written in block letters. If a nom-de-plume is to be used, the full name and address of the writer should appear at the foot of the letter.

Whenever an article or an editorial appears that expresses some Christian Social principle or offers a positive solution to a problem, write to the Editor and congratulate him on it.

Make sure that a copy of all letters published is kept. A copy should also be forwarded to Headquarters so that the effect of this letter-writing campaign can be assessed.

(4) Reports of Public Meetings.

An indirect method of presenting sound policies through the press is to ensure that full reports of public meetings are presented to the Editors of local newspapers, especially when any discussions or resolutions are passed concerning an item of policy of the N.C.R.M. In this way, ideas can be presented continually in a fresh manner.

III. RADIO.

As a means of extending influence into the intimate home circle of each family, radio is unique. People retain what they hear more readily than through reading. Every possible opportunity for presenting Christian ideas and policies on radio should be utilized. To be effective, there must be some constant programme as well as many other single instances, all touching some theme of N.C.R.M. policy such as decentralisation, land settlement, co-operatives, diversification of agriculture.

Possible means of using the radio as a medium of propaganda would be through:—

News Items.

Interviews.

Broadcast of talks.

(1) News Items.

In the past, both the A.B.C. and Regional Stations have featured news items submitted by the N.C.R.M. During a period of serious floods in N.S.W., Station 3YB Warrnambool announced the details of a "Hay-lift" being organised locally by the Rural Movement in the Region to assist flood victims. Other stations also proved most co-operative, particularly the A.B.C. Regional Stations.

Whenever some event of a positive nature which you think may be of interest to listeners is about to take place, or has happened, notify the local Radio Station.

Reports of speeches given at N.C.R.M. Conventions have been featured in State and National news summaries.

(2) Interviews.

Most Regional Stations broadcast a "Country Hour". Often a compere interviews local identities on some subject of rural interest. It may be strictly factual, for example, the result of some agricultural experiment being carried out by the person being interviewed; or it may be a more general discussion on town planning, regional development, the prospects of irrigation in the district, helping immigrants, the Primary Produce Gift Scheme or similar topics.

These interviews offer an excellent opportunity for Group members to represent effectively N.C.R.M. policies before a wide audience.

This is a matter that could be discussed by the Group and then with the Station Manager or compere of the "Country Hour". Opportunities may well exist, but it is necessary to seek them out and have practical suggestions to make on topics and personnel.

Any other sessions of this nature may prove useful as a means of influence. The initiative must come from the Groups. Opportunities are there, but, unless suggestions are forthcoming from the members, they will be lost.

IV. TELEVISION.

When Television comes to rural areas, every effort should be made by all levels of the N.C.R.M. to take advantage of its facilities. What has been said about Radio above, basically applies to Television. Television, of course, is a much more potent medium than the Press or Radio, and this is a major reason why we should endeavour to make the fullest possible use of it.

CHAPTER XIII.

LIBRARIES.

I. FORMATION.

II. COMPOSITION.

- (1) Spiritual Reading.
- (2) Papal Encyclicals.
- (3) Catholic Action and Sociology.
- (4) Legislation.
- (5) Economics and Current Affairs.
- (6) Agriculture.
- (7) International Affairs.
- (8) Australian History.
- (9) Communism.
- (10) Maps and Films.

(1) FORMATION.

Reading in itself means very little if it denotes only literacy. Most people can read, but not all reading is education. What is read determines to a great extent the range of our ideas; but, how we read is the final determinant that fixes these ideas in our minds so that they really become our own. Education cannot proceed far without reading, but, far too much reading is only a way of passing the time.

Many magazines, cheap novels and daily newspapers are to be found in the homes of country people and this is the only contact they have with the world of ideas outside their district. The well-informed Catholic will remain a pleasant myth unless a steady stream of books, journals and papers of a more serious nature are introduced into country homes and circulated as widely as possible.

It is not possible for farmers and townspeople to keep abreast of current affairs or develop a true understanding of social, economic or international affairs unless they are prepared to read serious works. Every man who wishes to be truly educated must make the effort to read and think about serious books in many fields—history, biography, philosophy, poetry, economics. The Lay Apostle has an added responsibility to be conversant with the major questions of Sociology and practical Morality if he is going to be capable of giving a lead to his fellow men in the organisations and institutions of the rural community.

The mark of an "educated" man is the "catholicity" of his interests. He should embrace all aspects of human knowledge and experience, seeing each section as part of the totality. This is not an unattainable ideal, nor does it depend on the number of years' formal schooling that a man has had. The development of a balanced and stable judgment, knowing reality from distortions of truth, is within the reach of every man and woman who is prepared to make the effort.

The object of reading is to gain a knowledge of truth. This is obtained by the mind coming to understand facts, theories or other men's thoughts. The deeper knowledge of Truth the Christian has, the more clearly will he see the purpose of his existence. The study of good books and the fruits of the Church's wisdom in its various manifestations

gives the Catholic a balance and insight that cannot be obtained other than by prayer and study of the great truths of God's existence and the destiny of man.

Only a Catholic can understand reality as created by God and see all else in relation to that reality. The royal path to this maturity of mind is through reading. The N.C.R.M. aims at educating members of Groups, other Catholics and all the people in the rural environment. An indispensable basis for this education programme is a Library.

Libraries have been established by some Groups for many years. Penola (S.A.), Yambuk and Cororooke Groups in the Western Districts of Victoria are some that have made good use of Libraries, frequently exchanging books with other N.C.R.M. Groups.

In establishing a Library, there are a number of books that form a good basis for further development. Every Group should try to form a Library of such books, gradually adding to their store.

It is no way to start a Library simply by getting people to bring along books they do not want and which have no serious worth at all. Some regular scheme for purchasing books should be devised and subscriptions for various journals should be taken out by Groups, individuals and Regional Councils.

II. COMPOSITION.

The following suggestions for books, pamphlets and authors will give a guide to the type of literature that should form the basis of a Library. The list is not meant to be exhaustive, but it is fairly representative. Emphasis has been placed on Catholic Social works because of the obvious need for members to be conversant with social problems and their solutions.

(National Headquarters will place orders for books upon request).

(1) Spiritual Reading.

Scripture.

On Englishing the Bible—R. Knox.
The New Testament—R. Knox.
The Old Testament—R. Knox.
The Holy Bible—R. Knox.
The Gospel Story—Knox-Cox.
The Psalms.
How to Read the Bible—R. Poelman.
Enjoying the New Testament—M. Monroe.

Life of Christ.

We Saw His Glory—M. Ward.
"Life of Christ"—Ricciatti.
"The Book of the Saviour"—F. J. Sheed.
"Our Lord"—G. Lake, S.J.
"Jesus in His Time"—Daniel-Rops.
Life of Christ—V. McNabb, O.P.
The Lord—R. Guardini.

Spirituality.

"Christ, the Life of the Soul"—Abbot Marmion, O.S.B.
"In the Likeness of Christ"—Ed. Leen, C.S., Sp.
"The Divine Pity"—G. Vann, O.P.
"Introduction to a Devout Life"—St. Francis de Sales.

"A Year's Thoughts"—William Doyle, S.J.
"A Book of Spiritual Instruction"—Abbot Blossius.
"Fifty Meditations on the Passion"—Archbishop Goodier, S.J.
"A Retreat for Lay People"—R. Knox.
Words of Life—C. Marmion, O.S.B.
This Tremendous Lover—E. Boylan, O.CIST.
The Walled Garden—R. Knox.
The Living Bread—T. Merton, O.CIST.
Salt of the Earth—C. M. Shaw.

Lives of Saints.

"The Secret of the Cure d'Ars"—H. Gheon.
"The Secret of St. John Bosco"—H. Gheon.
"The Secret of the Little Flower"—H. Gheon.
"The Secret of St. Martin"—H. Gheon.
"Saints and their Attributes"—Helen Roeder.
"St. Benedict Joseph Laline"—A. de la Gorce.
"A Saint in the Slave Trade"—Arnold Lunn.
"The Story of a Soul"—St. Therese of Lisieux.
"St. Joan of Arc"—C. Peguy.
"St. Pius X"—W. Derthelin, O.S.B.
"St. Theresa of Avila"—M. Auclair.
St. John Fisher—E. E. Reynolds.
"Saints for Now"—Clare Boothe Luce.
St. Thomas More—E. E. Reynolds.
"Little Flowers of St. Francis"—Dom R. Huddleston.
"St. Francis of Assisi"—G. K. Chesterton.
"St. Thomas Aquinas"—G. K. Chesterton.
"St. Vincent de Paul"—Mgr. J. Calvert.
"St. Catherine of Siena"—Ingeborg Lund.
"St. Dominic and the Rosary"—C. Beebe.
"St. Benedict"—T. F. Lindsay.
"Bernadette of Lourdes"—Frances Parkinson Keyes.
"St. Francis Xavier"—J. Broderick, S.J.
"St. Ignatius Loyola"—J. Broderick, S.J.
"A Procession of Saints"—J. Broderick, S.J.
"Saints Are Not Sad"—F. J. Sheed.
"Bl. Robert Southwell, Poet and Martyr"—C. Devlin.
"Vocation of St. Aloysius Gonzaga"—C. Martindale, S.J.
"What are Saints?"—C. Martindale, S.J.

General Catholic Reading.

"The Confessions"—St. Augustine.
"The City of God"—St. Augustine.
"Apologia"—Cardinal John Henry Newman.
"Idea of a University"—Cardinal John Henry Newman.
"A Map of Life"—F. J. Sheed.
"The Mary Book"—F. J. Sheed.
"The Faith and Modern Man"—Mgr. R. Guardini.
"The Church and Infallibility"—Abbot Butler.
"Philosophy of Religion"—Fulton Sheen.

"Introduction to Philosophy"—Jacques Maritain.
 "Foundations of Philosophy"—T. Fleming, S.J.
 "The Unknown God"—A. Noyes.
 "The Spirit of Catholicism"—K. Adam.
 "Life Together"—Wingfield Hope.
 "Psychology of Character"—R. Allers.
 "Psychoanalysis and Personality"—J. Nuttin.
 "A Popular History of the Church"—P. Hughes.
 "A History of the Church"—P. Hughes.
 "Anthology of Catholic Poets"—Shane Leslie (Ed.).
 "Daring to Live: Heroic Christians of our Day"—D. Burton.
 "We Fight While There's Life Left"—H. Van Zellen, O.S.B.

Apologetics.

Radio Replies — Dr. Rumble.
 Correspondence Course in Catholic Doctrine — Dr. Rumble.
 Plain Talks on the Catholic Religion — H. Johnston, S.J.
 Theology and Sanity — F. J. Sheed.
 Society and Sanity — F. J. Sheed.
 Now I See — A. Lunn.
 How to Pray Always — Pere Pius.
 Radiating Christ — Pere Pius.
 The Creed in Slow Motion — R. Knox.
 The Mass in Slow Motion — R. Knox.
 The Gospel in Slow Motion — R. Knox.
 "Man, the Unknown"—A. Carrel.
 What Catholics Believe — Peiper and Raskop.
 Apologetics and Christian Doctrine — Dr. Sheehan.
 Orthodoxy — G. K. Chesterton.
 The Everlasting Man — G. K. Chesterton.
 How to Instruct a Convert — A. Gitts, S.J.
 Our Faith—Bishop Heenan.
 This is the Faith—F. J. Ripley.
 Commentary on the Catechism — W. Freen, S.J.

(2) Papal Encyclicals.

RERUM NOVARUM (A.C.T.S.)—Leo XIII.
 "On the Condition of the Working Classes."
 QUADRAGESIMO ANNO (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XI.
 "On Reconstruction of the Social Order."
 DIVINI REDEMPTORIS (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XI.
 "On the Errors of Atheistic Communism."
 CASTI CONNUBII (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XI.
 "On Christian Marriage."
 DOCUMENTS ON CATHOLIC ACTION—Pius XI.
 MYSTICI CORPORIS CHRISTI (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XII.
 "On the Mystical Body of Christ."
 SUMMI PONTIFICATUS (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XII.
 "On the Functions of the State."
 MEDIATOR DEI (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XII.
 "On Christian Worship."
 DEMOCRACY, TRUE OR FALSE (A.C.T.S.)—Pius XII.
 "Catholic Documentation" ("Catholic Weekly," Sydney).
 "MAN AGAINST MODERN SOCIETY"—Pius XII
 (A.C.T.S.).

"THE MIND OF PIUS XII"—Ed., R. C. Pollock.
 "THE POPE ON YOUTH"—Ed., R. B. Fullham, S.J.

(3) Catholic Action and Sociology.

- (a) Annual Social Justice Statements of Australian Hierarchy.
- (b) Particular Statements by Hierarchy —
 - "Pattern for Peace."
 - "Catholic Action in Australia."
 - "Relations Between State and Federal Governments"—Archbishop D. Mannix.
 - "Growth or Decline"—Cardinal Suhard.
- (c) N.C.R.M. Convention Reports —
 - "Migration to Australia."
 - "Food or Famine."
- (d) Other N.C.R.M. Publications —
 - "The Earth Our Mother"—B. A. Santamaria.
 - "Policy for the Murray Valley"—B. A. Santamaria.
 - "Credit Societies"—Fr. T. Linane.
 - "Introduction to Social Principles"—C.S.G.
 - "Fire on the Earth" (Manifesto of Women's Groups).
 - "Christian Education in the Home"—A Dominican Nun.
- (e) Principles —
 - "Security, Freedom and Happiness"—A. Gordon, S.J.
 - "The Challenge" (Sociology for Beginners)—A. Gordon, S.J.
 - "Manual of Social Ethics"—Rev. J. Kavanagh.
 - "Moral Principles and Social Order"—A. O'Rahilly.
 - "Catholic Social Principles"—Rev. J. F. Cronin.
 - "Social Ethics"—Rev. J. Messner.
 - "Social Theorists"—C. S. Mihanovich.
 - "Man and Society"—Rev. F. J. Haas.
 - "Principles of Rural-Urban Sociology—Sorokin and Zimman."
 - "A Catholic Philosophy of Education"—Redden and Ryan.
 - "A Catholic's Guide to Social and Political Action"—C. Clump, S.J.
- (f) The Family —
 - "Women's Place in Social and Political Life" (Pius XII).
 - "Marriage and the Family"—Leclercq.
 - "Two in one Flesh"—Rev. E. C. Messenger.
 - "Fundamental Marriage Counselling"—John Cavanagh.
 - "What parents should tell their little ones on sex"—Dr. Rumble.
- (g) General —
 - "The Role of the Laity in the Church"—Mgr. G. Phillips.
 - "The Mission of the Layman"—B. A. Santamaria.
 - "The Gospel to every Creature"—Suenens.
 - "The Layman in the Church"—M. Bedoyere.
 - "Flight From the City"—R. Borsodi.
 - "Woman in the Modern World"—Eva Firkel.
 - "Making of a Moron"—N. Brennan.
 - "Essays of a Catholic"—H. Belloc.
 - "How the Reformation Happened"—H. Belloc.

"Europe and the Faith" — H. Belloc.
 "Crisis of Our Civilization" — H. Belloc.
 "The Servile State" — H. Belloc.
 "Christian Democracy" — M. P. Fogarty.
 "Democracy in Australia" — Fr. J. Murtagh.
 "The Modern Dilemma" — C. Dawson.
 "Religion and Culture" — C. Dawson.
 "Religion and the Rise of Western Culture" — C. Dawson.
 "Religion in the Modern State" — C. Dawson.
 The Apostolate of Public Opinion — Felix Morlion, O.P.
 Framework of the Christian State — E. Cahill, S.J.
 Property and Poverty — A. Crofts, O.P.

(4) Legislation.

All copies of Acts passed by State Legislatures can be obtained from the Government Printer in each State. Copies of Co-operative Societies' Handbooks or Model Rules for Co-operative Societies may be had on application to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the respective States.

Commonwealth Statutes are available from the Government Printer.

Co-operation Acts of Qld., N.S.W., Vic., A.C.T.

Model Rules for Co-operative Societies.

Co-operative Societies' Handbook.

Co-operative Housing Act in various States.

Land Acts.

Local Government Act.

Taxation for Farmers (booklet available from Commonwealth Primary Industry Dept.).

(5) Economics and Current Affairs.

Bulletins and Periodicals.

Commonwealth, and various Trading, Bank Surveys.

Bureau of Census and Statistics Surveys.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics Surveys.

Commonwealth Year Books.

"Facts and Figures" — Department of the Interior.

"Current Affairs Bulletins" — Sydney University.

Annual Reports of Public Companies.

Journal of the New Settlers' League — Department of Immigration.

Publications of Farmers' Organisations, e.g., "Primary Producer".

"Australian Quarterly" — (Aust. Institute of Political Science).

"Review" — Institute of Public Affairs (Vic.).

"Social Survey" (Institute of Social Order).

Papers.

"News Weekly."

Books.

"Property and Economic Progress" — C. Clark.

"Economic and Political Life of Man" — Clump.

"Economics of Charity" — Doboszynski.

Earth Our Mother — Santamaria.

* "Economics" — Benham.

(*Latest Edition: Textbook of Principles).

Australia: Resources and Industries (Parts I and II) — J. Andrews.

"The Social Framework" — Hicks.

"Productivity and Progress" — Aust. Inst. Polit. Science.

"Utopia and Experiment" — H. F. Infield.

"Father Tompkins of Nova Scotia" — Boyle.

(6) Agriculture.

Bulletins of Department of Agriculture.

"Rural Research in C.S.I.R.O."

"The Rabbit Menace."

"Wool Growing."

"Cattle Raising on the N.S.W. Tablelands," and other bulletins available from C.S.I.R.O.

Books.

"The Keyline" Plan — P. Yeomans.

"Malabar Farm" — L. Bromfield.

"The Wheat Industry in Australia" — Callaghan & Millington.

"The Geography of Hunger" — de Castro.

(7) International Affairs.

Periodicals.

"Time" — for a wide coverage of international affairs.

"News Weekly."

"Social Survey."

"Current Notes on International Affairs" — Department of External Affairs.

Books and Pamphlets.

"Asia With the Lid Off" — D. Warner.

"Spotlight on Asia" — Guy Wint.

(8) Australian History.

The Foundation of Australia — Archbishop E. O'Brien.

The Foundation of the Church in Australia — Archbishop E. O'Brien.

"Select Documents in Australian History" (Vols. I and II) — C. M. H. Clark.

"Australia" — Hancock.

"Australia" — N. Grattan.

"Australia: The Catholic Chapter" — Fr. J. Murtagh.

"Mary McKillop" — Fr. O. Thorpe, C.P.

"The Australia Labour Party" — Prof. L. F. Crisp.

"Dig" — F. Clune.

"The Pacific Basin" — Wood.

"Discovery of Australia" — Wood.

"Face of Australia" — Laseon.

"Australian Land Saga" — R. D. Watt.

"Story of Conscripted in Australia" — Jauncey.

"Economic Development of Australia" — Shaw.

"Economic History of Australia" — Shann.

"Australian Land Settlement 1888-1920" — Prof. S. Roberts.

"Geographical Bases of Government" — Prof. McDonald Holmes.

"The Murray Valley" — Prof. McDonald Holmes.

(9) Communism.

- "Red Star versus the Cross" — Dufay and Hyde.
- "Calvary in China" — R. W. Green, M.M.
- "Martyrs in China" — J. Mousterleat, S.J.
- "Policy for the West" — B. Ward.
- "Report of the Petrov Commission."
- "Communism" (C.T.S.) — Fulton Sheen.
- "Communism and Man" — F. J. Sheed.
- "History of Russia" — Pares.
- "Darkness at Noon" — Koestler.
- "Red Spy Ring" —
- "Communism from the Inside" — Douglas Hyde.
- "Marx Against the Peasant" — David Mitrany.
- "Witness" — Whittaker Chambers.
- "One Front Across the World" — D. Hyde.
- "Nineteen Eighty-four" — G. Orwell.

(10) Maps.

When studying a region closely, it is useful to have an idea of the geological, administrative and political divisions.

- (a) The State Department of Lands and the Department of Mines should be able to provide adequate geological and geographical maps.
- (b) Administrative boundaries should be available from the Municipal and Shire Offices.
- (c) Political divisions are frequently changed in some areas. The State Electoral Councils have an up-to-date knowledge of political boundaries.
- (d) Oil companies often make available framed travel maps for display purposes. Garages can usually supply copies of road maps on request.

Films.

Good quality documentary films are an excellent help to Groups in the process of educating themselves and others. Many Institutions make films available on request from some organisation or Group. Suggested sources of films are —

- (a) C.S.I.R.O.
- (b) State Departments of Agriculture.
- (c) The U.S. Information Service.
- (d) Foreign Embassies.
- (e) State Departments of Education.
- (f) Shell Oil Company and other Oil Companies.
- (g) Rural Bank (N.S.W.)
- (h) Department of Interior (Canberra).
- (i) Catholic Film Centre (Victoria).
- (j) State Film Centre (Victoria).

Difficulty may be experienced in obtaining a projector and an operator. The film lending institution may be able to assist in this direction; otherwise, the Group is left to its own initiative in obtaining these facilities. In Victoria, the Dept. of Agriculture will supply a mobile unit complete with films, projection equipment and operator, on request. To obtain the greatest benefit at least cost. Regional Councils should propose an itinerary for a district.

CHAPTER XIV. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

I. PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION.

- (1) Basic Principles.
- (2) Legislation.

II. EDUCATION.

- (1) Group Study.
- (2) Talks.
- (3) Cottage Discussion.
- (4) Publicity.

III. TYPES OF CO-OPERATIVES.

- (1) Credit Unions.
- (2) Community Advancement Societies.
- (3) Other Types.

IV. FORMATION.

- (1) Legal Requirements.
- (2) Constitution.
- (3) Inauguration.

V. FEDERATION.

(I) PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION

Co-operative Societies are one of the best examples of living Christianity. As instruments of mutual co-operation and assistance, they carry out in a very practical way the words of Christ.

The Rural Movement has been second to none in educating people in the spirit of co-operation, forming societies of all kinds and in obtaining adequate legislation where none existed.

(1) Basic Principles.

The basic principles of Co-operation are very simple:—

Any seven people may come together for a common purpose, and form a Co-operative Society.

The Co-operative is run by the members themselves, each member having only one vote no matter how many shares he holds.

A Board of Directors is elected annually by the members.

The objects of the Co-operatives may be anything for the common good of members or for any charitable purpose, within the meaning of the Act.

Auditors are appointed to safeguard the use of funds.

Without Charity in the hearts of members, and sound education in Co-operative principles and practices, Co-operation will not flourish.

(2) Legislation.

Provision for Co-operative Housing Societies exists in all States. Separate Co-operation Acts exist in Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria and the A.C.T.

Under this legislation, a Registry of Co-operative Societies is established and Co-operative Societies must be registered under the Act.

Government guarantees may be issued on some types of Co-operatives, for example, Terminating Building Co-operatives. Provisions for guarantees vary in each State.

(II) EDUCATION.

Co-operation without Education is impossible. Members must be fully grounded in the spirit of Co-operation. This is not obtained merely by reading a few articles. Co-operation is a way of life, that involves consideration for others, mutual help, willingness to accept majority decisions, initiative in carrying out schemes for the individual and common good; and most of all, co-operation means living in a bond of Christian Charity with one's neighbours.

To understand Co-operatives fully, it is essential that all members, particularly likely Office-bearers, are fully acquainted with the history of the Co-operative Movement, legislation, administration, practice and limitations of existing societies.

The techniques that have proved most useful in instilling knowledge and the co-operative spirit into members are —

(1) Group Study.

The first step in discovering the workings of Co-operatives is for a group of people to meet together to discuss the subject.

Plenty of suitable literature is available. By notifying N.C.R.M. headquarters of your interest, copies of the pamphlet "Credit Societies" will be forwarded to you.

Other sources include:—

"The Co-operation Act" from the Government Printer in the respective States.

"Handbook for Housing Co-operatives", N.S.W.

"Handbook for Credit Societies", N.S.W.

"Handbook for Community Advancement Societies", N.S.W.

Memorandum on Credit Societies, Vic.

(All of these are available from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in each State.)

"The Story of Antigonish" and "It can be done", A.C.T.S. pamphlets.

Four or five meetings should be devoted to discussing various aspects in an ordered fashion. This should also be supplemented by private reading.

It has been found better to hold these group discussions frequently, at least once a week, so that the initial education does not drag on longer than enthusiasm for the project lasts.

(2) Talks.

If possible, try and arrange talks on the workings of Co-operatives by —

- (a) Directors of existing Co-operatives.
- (b) Officials of the Registry of Co-operative Societies.
- (c) N.C.R.M. officials.

(3) Cottage Discussions.

In Co-operative education, the heart of the matter is the Cottage Discussion.

When the initial group of ten or twelve members are fully grounded in the workings of co-operatives, the time is ripe to begin educating all future members.

A cottage discussion is arranged by each person (in the initial group) to which he invites ten or twelve of his friends to talk over Co-operatives. The meeting is held in the home; this adds to the warm, friendly atmosphere, although care must be taken to ensure that the meeting does not become a purely social gathering.

In this friendly setting, the idea of forming a Co-operative with its objects, powers, duties is placed before the gathering.

Through the original groups, at least 100 people can be contacted in this way and gradually after a number of cottage discussions have been held, a class "community of interest" will be formed.

Cottage discussions should be held continually until all members are fully educated in Co-operation and have the right spirit. Then, and only then, should the Society be formed. They should also be continued after the societies' formation.

(4) Publicity.

Articles in local papers and in Parish journals do a lot to create interest in any new venture. Particularly if the new Society is a Credit Union or Building Co-operative, wide publicity will attract investors and borrowers.

One of the functions of the initial study group could be the presentation of suitable articles for publication.

(III) TYPES OF CO-OPERATIVES.

The form a Co-operative Society will take is largely determined by its aims. There is a wide overlap, however, in the possible scope of each type.

Under the N.S.W. Co-operation Act, which was the first comprehensive legislation to be passed in Australia, the main types of Co-operatives listed are:

Credit Union (Small Loans Societies).

Community Advancement Societies.

Community Settlement Societies.

Producers' Societies.

Rural Societies.

Housing Co-operatives.

(1) Credit Societies.

Small Loans, or Credit, Societies have been established in many rural areas by the N.C.R.M. Some of these Co-operatives have been functioning since the early 1940's, such as the Port Fairy (Vic.) Credit Union. One Society, recently established, has a capital of £15,000. Several others have £10,000 invested. The growth of Credit Societies from small beginnings has been one of the most useful works carried out by the N.C.R.M. By providing some small financial assistance to country men and women when it is most needed, a valuable service is performed for the community.

Financial worry is one of the biggest problems facing family life in time of sickness, for education, for expanding the house, and for the many sudden calls that arise from time to time.

Credit Societies fulfil three functions —

They educate members in the control of domestic finance.

They teach people to save and invest their savings wisely.

They provide members with loans for approved purposes at a low rate of interest repayable in regular instalments.

The purposes for which loans may be made are:

- (a) To assist its members to purchase furniture for homes.
- (b) To assist its members to purchase materials for the erection of homes.
- (c) To assist its members to defray the cost of painting, of effecting additions or repairs to their homes.
- (d) To assist its members to pay the expenses of removing household furniture and effects.
- (e) To assist its members to acquire tools, implements, machinery, materials or stock-in-trade for any business, trade or industry.
- (f) To assist its members to commence, acquire or carry on any business, trade or industry.
- (g) To assist its members to purchase or lease a place of business, trade or industry.
- (h) To assist its members to discharge any financial liabilities.

(2) Community Advancement Societies.

This form of Co-operative has proved most popular in N.S.W., where Government guarantees have been given in respect of many such Societies. The main purposes for which Community Advancement Societies may be formed are:

To provide, and carry on, any community service including transport, the supply of water, gas and electricity.

To provide, maintain and operate factories, mills, silos, drying and packing sheds, cold stores, abattoirs, saleyards, drafting yards, motor garages, smithies and machinery repair shops.

To undertake farming operations and to purchase or otherwise acquire agricultural machinery, implements and requisites on behalf of its members.

To purchase or acquire land and to sell or let the same to its members.

To acquire, provide and maintain lands and buildings for educational, recreational or other community purposes, and to promote and assist clubs societies or other organisations for any such purpose.

To promote and carry out any charitable purpose.

To erect dwelling houses and buildings either on land owned by the society for sale or letting to members or on land owned by members.

The N.C.R.M. group at Cobargo, N.S.W., on the South Coast, has established an Advancement Society as the best means of carrying out works of practical charity of benefit to themselves and the district.

Advancement Societies have been formed to build homes; to run Social Clubs, to undertake machinery pools; and to supply electricity.

(3) Other Types.

The other forms of Co-operative Societies are adequately explained in the various State Co-operation Acts. Housing Co-operatives are dealt with separately in the next Chapter.

(IV) FORMATION.

(1) Legal Requirements.

The procedure for inaugurating new Co-operative Societies is set out in the relevant sections of the Co-operation Acts. The following is a brief summary of the necessary conditions.

At a special meeting called to inaugurate the new Society, at least seven people must agree to form it.

At the same meeting, there must be presented:

- (a) A written statement showing the objects of the Society, the factors ensuring it will be co-operative in character and operation, and the reasons for believing that, if registered, it will be able to carry out its objects.
- (b) A copy of the Rules to be adopted.
- (c) Once the Rules are adopted and at least seven people have signed them, the same people should sign an application form requesting membership.
- (d) Directors should then be elected.
- (e) Within two months of the election of directors, application can be made to the Registrar of Co-operatives for registration under the Act as a Co-operative Society.

This procedure varies slightly in each State, but the foregoing is a summary of all legal requirements. The relevant Co-operation Act will give full details. A copy of the Rules can be obtained from the Registrar of Co-operatives in each State. It is preferable to have a Government official, a representative of Headquarters or a solicitor present at the inaugural meeting, to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

(2) Constitution.

In the drafting of a Constitution for a Co-operative Society it is best to base it on the Model Rules suggested by the State Registrar.

Any alterations or additions deemed necessary can be made to these Rules and then submitted to the Registrar for approval.

Some matters are purely arbitrary, such as the number of directors; but fundamental principles should not be altered, such as "one member, one vote".

Interest rates should be kept reasonably low, but not so low that investors do not receive a reasonable return. In a proper co-operative, the investors will also be borrowers so that the interest charges will go back to members.

(3) Inauguration.

The various stages in forming a Co-operative Society are Education, Inauguration and Practice. The inauguration should only come after all the prospective members are well grounded in the techniques of co-operatives and have charity in their hearts. The inauguration should be the climax of the discussions held beforehand.

Once the Society is formed and registered, it is better for the Directors and Office-bearers to gain experience before expanding too far. In Credit Societies, too large a capital throws a great strain on the Directors in the beginning. It is far better for the Society to grow naturally and at an even pace.

Only when members regard their Co-operative as a means of mutual assistance and not as something to be exploited, will the Society be a Co-operative in the fullest sense of the word. True Co-operation is Charity in action.

(V) FEDERATION.

From time to time, Co-operatives in one part of the State find they have excess capital, while other Societies cannot meet the demand for loans. The way of overcoming this discrepancy is through the Federation of all Societies of the one kind.

Thus, a Federation of Credit Societies in N.S.W., would embrace Credit Societies at Maitland, Singleton, Wagga, Albury, Yass, Goulburn, Crookwell and other places where such Co-operatives exist.

Each Credit Society in the Federation is autonomous and retains full control of its own finance. The purpose of the Federation is to arrange loans between Societies and the unity of so many societies strengthens the possibilities for extending the work in other fields.

CHAPTER XV.

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETIES.

(I) TYPES OF HOUSING SOCIETIES —

(1) Terminating.

Finance.
Borrowers.
Management.

(2) Series Terminating.

(3) Permanent.

Finance.
Borrowers.
Investors.

(II) FORMATION OF HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES.

The desire of men and women to own their own home is fundamental. Because of lack of opportunity, insufficient capital, or credit, or not knowing how to go about it, many people continue to live in rooms or pay rent all their lives.

Co-operative Housing Societies offer long-term loans at reasonable rates of interest. Their aim is not to exploit the housing shortage, but to enable families to own their own home.

Other housing schemes such as Housing Commission projects suffer from handicaps not found in Co-operatives. For example, the man who borrows from a Co-operative may choose the dimensions of his house himself; he pays no rent but is repaying capital and interest on his loan from the start. Also, an owner-builder is able to economise in building costs.

At a time when State Governments are casting around for a solution to the housing problem, no better solution could be found than by expanding and encouraging Co-operative Housing Societies especially in country areas.

(I) TYPES OF HOUSING SOCIETIES.

There are three types of Co-operative Housing Societies in use —
Terminating Societies.
Series-Terminating Societies.
Permanent Societies.

(1) Terminating Co-operative Housing Societies.

This is the usual form of Co-operative Housing Society. They are called Terminating because all members commence payments on a given date and repay their loans over a specific period, usually nineteen or twenty-five years.

Finance. The Capital for Terminating Societies comes from banking institutions such as the Commonwealth Bank, Trading Banks, Insurance Companies or from State Governments under the Commonwealth-States' Housing Agreement.

They make available a loan of say, £150,000, to be used exclusively in the financing of homes for members of the Co-operative. The lending institution charges a fixed rate of interest on the loan, e.g., 4½ or 5%. The money is repaid by the borrowers through the Co-operative to the lending Institution. In this sense, such Housing Co-operatives terminate as soon as all outstanding debts are paid. The lending institutions may re-allocate the money wherever they so desire.

Management. The Society is managed by a Board of Directors of any number, usually from six to ten.

Registration must be obtained under the respective State Acts, e.g., Housing Co-operative or Building Societies Act and a guarantee obtained from the Treasurer covering the sum invested in the Co-operative.

Usually an experienced Accountant is appointed by the Directors to act as Secretary to the Co-operative. His salary is paid by a small additional charge on all borrowers' shares.

Solicitors arrange Mortgages and a qualified Valuer inspects and reports on all properties.

All loans must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Typical of the Terminating type of Housing Co-operative is The Leongatha and District Co-operative Housing Society formed by the Leongatha (Vic.) Group of the N.C.R.M. It has a capital of £150,000 and has financed the building of 58 houses in Gippsland.

Borrowers. Terminating Societies exist solely for borrowers. As soon as the requisite number of applications for loans is received, a Terminating Society that has obtained an advance from a lending institution such as Commonwealth Bank or Insurance Company, can begin to operate.

Borrowers repay their loan at a regular weekly rate. An example of repayments on a loan of £2,000 shows clearly the small burden over a long period. The interest rate allowed in these calculations is 5%.

25½ YEARS.		20 YEARS.	
Monthly Repayment	Weekly Equivalent	Monthly Repayment	Weekly Equivalent
£12/1/8	£2/15/8	£13/15/-	£3/3/4

Valuation on properties is determined on the cost of the land plus the buildings. The Co-operative usually advances up to 75% to 80% of their valuation for all loans over £1,800. In practice, the borrower must have sufficient capital to purchase the block of land and pay part of the building to complete the remaining 25% to 20%.

The Co-operative makes progress payments accordingly as each Section of a building is completed and approved by the Society's Building Inspector.

(2) Series Terminating.

A modification of the Terminating Society has been used successfully in some country towns in N.S.W. The one at Moree will serve as an illustration.

After several Terminating Societies had been formed, it was found that a steady demand for housing loans still had to be met but there were not sufficient applications to warrant a new Society.

The problem was solved by a dozen members commencing to purchase shares in a Society on a given date. They operated in the same fashion as a regular Terminating Society.

At a later date, when a further group wished to begin building, they commenced in the same way. Thus, over a period, a series of separate but linked groups were all operating within the one Terminating Society. The following example illustrates this:

- 12 members commence on 1st January, 1955, finish 1st January, 1980.
- 12 members commence on 1st July, 1955, finish 1st July, 1980.
- 12 members commence on 1st January, 1956, finish 1st January, 1981.
- 12 members commence on 1st July, 1956, finish 1st July, 1981.

Series-Terminating Societies should be useful in areas where circumstances make it impossible for a large Building Co-operative to function smoothly.

They are operated in the same way as ordinary Terminating Societies by a Board of Directors. The accounting procedure is slightly more complex but is not beyond the competence of any experienced accountant.

(3) Permanent Building Societies.

Finance. Since finance for Terminating Societies has been increasingly more difficult to obtain, one of the most significant developments in the field of Co-operatives has been the increase in the number of Permanent Building and Investment Societies.

The basic difference between Permanent and Terminating Societies is in the source of Capital. All capital in a Permanent Society is drawn from private investment. Instead of all the money being advanced by a single lending institution, Permanent Societies offer a safe and profitable investment to investors.

The N.C.R.M. has been prominent in recent times in establishing and advocating these Permanent Co-operative Societies since they offer an excellent solution to the housing problem and channel investments into essential items.

"The Hume Co-operative Permanent Building and Investment Society Limited" exemplifies the features of such Co-operatives.

Based on Albury, the "Hume" operates in the Murray Valley on each side of the River. Sponsored by the Albury Group of the N.C.R.M., the "Hume" is registered under the N.S.W. Co-operation Act and offers two important services to the Community.

A Borrower's Department.

To the borrower, the Permanent Building Society is similar to the ordinary Terminating Society. It functions in the same simple, scientific manner but possesses factors that are a distinct improvement on these Societies.

Loans. Loans are available for —

- Buying a home and property.
- Building a home.
- Making additions to a home.
- Paying off a mortgage.

All applications must be approved by the Directors and there is no ballot or means test necessary.

The rate of interest on loans is 5% and a period of up to twenty-five years is allowed for repayments. The following example illustrates the repayments necessary on a loan of £2,000.

25 1/2 YEARS.		20 YEARS.		15 YEARS.	
Monthly Repayment	Weekly Equivalent	Monthly Repayment	Weekly Equivalent	Monthly Repayment	Weekly Equivalent
£12/1/8	£2/15/8	£13/15/-	£3/3/4	£16/5/-	£3/15/-

One of the main features of a Permanent Society is that each loan is treated individually. A borrower may commence his loan and finish repayments in whatever terms suits him best. He does not have to wait until the Society is filled.

After borrowing, members may repay the whole of the loan or any number of £10 shares at any time. The monthly payments are correspondingly reduced when the capital is reduced.

Provision is made to safeguard the borrowers in the event of sickness or unemployment.

Dividends may be declared on borrower's shares as well as investor's, thus reducing the capital to be repaid by each borrower.

Investors' Department.

The Hume Permanent Co-operative Housing and Investment Society is able to offer a safe and profitable investment. At least 5% dividend is paid on all £10 shares held by investors.

Shares may be paid for in full or at the rate of 2/6 per month. This enables small investors to save and invest their capital in a secure manner. Young people particularly can take out shares by depositing regular amounts. In this way, they have a deposit saved by the time they wish to build a house. Interest is paid on their investment and they are given preference once they make application for a loan.

Money may be withdrawn from the Society on three months' notice. However, the Directors have made arrangements for a Bank overdraft of £10,000, which is used to repay any investors who wish to withdraw their money immediately.

The Investors are safe-guarded under the provisions of the N.S.W. Co-operation Act and the Society is under the close supervision of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Money is only lent on selected properties after the Society's own Valuer has inspected and approved the property.

The most attractive feature about the Hume Permanent and other similar Co-operatives is that capital is used in the Region it comes from to develop housing.

For the large investor particularly, there is an opportunity to secure a profitable investment, and at the same time contribute in a very real way to the development of Australia. Ultimately, the small investors should become the backbone of Permanent Building Societies.

The Hume Co-operative in Albury and the San Isidore in Wagga may well set the pattern for Permanent Rural Housing Co-operatives throughout Australia.

(II) FORMATION OF HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES.

In forming a Housing Co-operative, the biggest problem usually is finance. For a Terminating Society, it is best to approach the State Registrar of Co-operative Building Societies and talk it over with him.

This doubly applies in the case of Permanent Societies because bad management will wreck completely any co-operative enterprise. Headquarters will be able to give you the advantage of experience gained elsewhere and put you in touch with the Secretaries of existing Societies.

Permanent Societies should only be established where a group of men experienced in running Co-operatives are available to form the Board of Directors.

To obtain financial support for a Permanent Building Society a personal canvass of likely investors should be carried out. If sufficient support is forthcoming, then the Inaugural Meeting should be held to form the Society. Rules should be adopted at this meeting and Directors elected.

Once the Co-operative is formed, wide publicity should be given to attract investment. At least £40,000 in investments is required to satisfy the N.S.W. Registrar of Co-operative Societies that the proposed Building and Investment Society is capable of carrying out its objectives.

A special campaign by the Directors to attract small investments will help swell Capital funds and safeguard the Society from the possibility that large withdrawals may cause embarrassment.

A new Permanent Society must prove itself a faithful Trustee of investor's funds and create an atmosphere of trust and confidence. Once faith in the Society is secure, investors will come to use it as a repository for their savings. Several existing Permanent Societies in N.S.W. have over £1,000,000 in investments. The great bulk of this money comes from small investors who realise their money is secure in the Co-operative, while it earns 5% interest for them.

It is hoped that, in time, Permanent Building and Investment Co-operative Societies, sponsored by the N.C.R.M., will operate in all States, mobilizing the financial resources of the country, providing an attractive investment, and at the same time developing rural housing, assisting in the purchase of farms and homes, and most of all making possible a more stable family life.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE FAMILY FARM.

- I. THE FAMILY FARM.
- II. PRACTICAL APPLICATION.
- III. PROVISION OF FOOD.
- IV. HOME BEAUTIFICATION.
- V. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.
- VI. DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE.

1. THE FAMILY FARM.

Right of Ownership.

The primary right of ownership, which is the very foundation of society, entitles a man to the fruits of his own labours. This is true also of the very soil itself that is used to produce those fruits.

* "The soil which is tilled and cultivated with toil and skill utterly changes its condition"; says Pope Leo XIII; it was wild before, now it is fruitful; was barren, but now brings forth in abundance. . . .

"Now when man thus turns the activity of his mind and the strength of his body to procuring the fruits of nature, by such act he makes his own that portion of nature's field which he cultivates . . . and it cannot but be just that he should possess that portion as his very own and have a right to hold it without any one being justified in violating that right."

(* RERUM NOVARUM Leo XIII.)

Principle of Decent Family Life.

Another primary natural right of man is to have a decent standard of living. "Social Justice," say the Australian Hierarchy in their Statement on Social Justice, "must ensure that man shall enjoy a truly human existence, which is equivalent to saying that he has a right to a decent family life."

Such a standard of living envisages that a man will be able to provide for the needs of his family. Such needs would include the ownership of the family home, the education of children, adequate food for the family, and insurance against the misfortunes the family may be subject to — sickness, death, damage to property, etc.

Concept of the "Family Farm."

By applying these two principles of the right of ownership and the right to a decent family life, to Australia's rural environment, the N.C.R.M. has developed the concept of "The Family Farm".

Considered by the N.C.R.M. as the Christian pattern of society for rural life, the concept of the "Family Farm" is comprised of three elements:—

- (a) The farm is owned by the family who work the soil. Each member of the family should have an economic interest in the farm.

- (b) The returns from the soil should be adequate to provide food for the family and other necessities of life.
- (c) There should be a margin sufficient to provide for the other needs of the family and ensure stability and security, so maintaining a high standard of living for the family.

The "Family Farm" is viewed as an Economic, Spiritual and Social unity of society catering for the needs of all members of the family. It embodies a spiritual approach to the land while at the same time guarding economic independence.

There are many hundreds of people with only a small amount of capital who wish to settle on the land. It is the Christian duty of rural people to investigate possibilities of settling these people and assisting them to establish themselves.

II. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This pattern of the "Family Farm" has practical application —
As a basis for land settlement.
As a standard for existing farms.

In the N.C.R.M.'s scheme for large-scale land settlements, the "Family Farm" has been taken as the basis of organisation. By intensive agriculture and the full use of natural resources, it is proposed that each family settled will be able to provide for its needs, gradually repay capital loans and eventually own its own farm.

The size of holdings will be determined by agricultural experts to provide for the decent standard of living necessary for happy family life. Factors such as type of soil, rain-fall, nature of farming industries undertaken, availability of markets will largely determine the size of the living area.

Maximum economic efficiency should be aimed at, and in the process, science should be fully availed of.

Duties of Land-Holders.

As a standard for existing farms, the "Family Farm" has a further application. Corresponding with these rights of ownership and a decent family life, there are duties binding on land-owners.

They must develop their land and use it to the full.

If possible, they should offer employment to those less fortunate than themselves.

While no one is obliged to give away what is needed for life, there is a duty to give to the needy out of what is superfluous.

In fulfilling these obligations, many farmers have already embarked on the full development of their properties, often employing men for whom opportunities might not otherwise have existed.

Bearing in mind these duties, we may consider ways and means of developing existing farms to the full. The practical applications of this concept of the "Family Farm" when considered as a criterion against which can be measured the state of existing farms, are manifold.

III. PROVISION OF FOOD.

"Men," says Pope Leo XIII, "always work harder and more readily when they work on that which belongs to them; nay, they learn to love the very soil that yields in response to the labour of their hands not only food to eat, but an abundance of good things for themselves and those that are dear to them."

With the specialization in agriculture that has taken place in Australia in recent years, the idea of producing food for the family has been, in far too many cases, abandoned. The relative wealth of farmers and the ready access of canned goods and processed foods have tended to develop an indifference to providing the family table with the fruits of the soil.

Instances of farmers who prefer to lower their standard of living rather than trouble themselves with extra labour can be multiplied. Sheep and wool growers who live on tinned milk rather than keep a house cow are far from rare; farmers who go without fresh vegetables, eggs or poultry rather than produce them themselves are not unknown.

If a family is living rural life to the full and a farmer is developing his property to the full, much of the food provided for their own table will be the fruits of their own soil.

The following practical suggestions may indicate suitable ways of improving living conditions by utilizing the natural gifts of the land.

Practical Suggestions.

Vegetable Gardens.

Where the soil is poor and unsuitable for gardening, some farmers build up fertility by adding fertilizers or by mixing a load of volcanic, limestone or other suitable soils with it.

Orchards.

With reasonable care, orchards can be cultivated, providing fresh fruit in season as well as for preserving.

Poultry.

Poultry runs can contribute much to a family's food budget with fresh eggs, fowls or ducks for the table.

Meat.

By purchasing a small number of sheep for killing, a farming family can be sure of fresh lamb or mutton all the year.

Dairy Foods.

By keeping a cow for the use of his household a farmer can keep the family supplied with fresh milk. In some areas, it may also be practical to make home-made butter and cheese.

IV. HOME BEAUTIFICATION.

Living standards have been lowered in some instances where country families have tolerated shabbiness, that is not connected with poverty, to creep into the home and environs. Work that is "unproductive" is frequently neglected. The result is that the home and the farm become drab in appearance. A well-cared-for look can be maintained by every rural family without too much effort. By setting a high standard of appearance in their houses and farms, N.C.R.M. members can give a lead to the whole of their district. By their example, others will be encouraged to care for their own properties thus developing in some small way a deeper appreciation of the land as a way of life and not solely as a means of becoming rich quickly. Many Regions of the Rural Movement have conducted competitions for the most-improved farms.

There is no reason why the house should not possess a modern layout and labour-saving devices, as many rural homes now prove. As well as easing the lot of the wife and mother, modern homes make for gracious living and help keep people in the countryside.

Practical Suggestions.

Painting.

It is surprising the degree to which a farm-house and farm can be transformed by paint. The house itself, both inside and out, machinery sheds, dairies, fences, gates, poultry sheds are all improved in appearance by an occasional coat of paint.

Lawns.

Wherever lawns have been planted around the farm-house, the house assumes an air of well-kept beauty. They have the added advantage, where there are young children, of providing somewhere safe for them to play.

Hedges.

Hedges or fences, when well-kept, add to the appearance of the home. Flower gardens and borders can make the grounds even more attractive.

Trees.

Judicious planting of trees on the farm highlights the natural features of the country. As a means of beautifying the farm, re-afforestation and the planting of trees and borders have been practised widely by members of the Rural Movement. As well as adding to the beauty of a property, this method ensures a supply of timber for the future. Other advantages are — shelter of stock from wind, cold and heat; protection of crops from wind.

Odd Jobs.

There are many other odd-jobs that could be attended to so that the place does not become untidy. Such matters as cleaning up rusty machinery lying about the farm; mending loose floor-boards as soon as they appear; cementing or cobbling the cow-yard; keeping fences in order; all these contribute to the beautification of the home and farm.

V. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

The conducting of agricultural experiments is an essential technique for introducing new or improved methods of farming into a district. Many various experiments have been undertaken by N.C.R.M. branches. A few examples may help to suggest possible experiments in other areas.

Water Conservation.

At Candelo (N.S.W.), members of the Group have undertaken experiments in water conservation based on the successes achieved by Mr. Geddes, Director of the Sydney University Faculty of Agriculture's Research Farm at Badgery Creek, near Liverpool.

The system developed by Mr. Geddes is known as "rain harvesting", and was first inspected by members of the Group at a field day.

Through their experiments, the N.C.R.M. members concerned hope to show the practicability of "rain harvesting" for the farmers on the Far South Coast of N.S.W.

Irrigation.

At Balranald (N.S.W.), near the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, a small private irrigation scheme has been installed at "Paika", in the dry Western Lands region. Normally suitable for sheep only, it is hoped to show that, by carrying out irrigation experiments, the soil will grow lucerne and other crops.

The use of spray irrigation has also been fostered by experiments carried out by Rural Movement members.

Potato and Onion Crops.

Experiments to determine the most suitable type of potato and onion crops for a district are quite common throughout growing areas. At Cororooke (Vic.), in the heart of the onion growers' district, N.C.R.M. members have made available to all the results of experiments carried out on different strains.

At Laggan, near Crookwell (N.S.W.), similar experiments have been carried out by members in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture.

Herd Improvements.

The introduction of, and support given to, "Herd-testing" by N.C.R.M. members has made a valuable contribution to the improvement of Australia's dairy herds. In Gippsland and Western Victoria particularly, Groups have been active in fostering "herd-testing".

The improvement of blood strains in stock has been advocated by local branches for many years as an obvious way of increasing production.

Pasture Improvement.

The implementation of latest techniques of pasture improvement has been undertaken in some areas. In the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn, as a result of a field-day arranged at the property of Mr. Paul Yeomans, the originator of the "Keyline Plan", near Windsor (N.S.W.), many farmers have purchased chisel plows and begun contour-plowing experiments in accordance with the ideas already applied by Mr. Yeomans on his own farm.

These experiments are having a marked influence on the approach to pasture improvements by farmers throughout the Southern Tablelands of N.S.W.

Although it is impossible to gauge accurately the influence that the N.C.R.M. has had on improved methods of farming over the years, we can confidently claim considerable credit for the implementation of better farming methods since the early 1940's.

VI. DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE.

One of the effects of these experiments in agriculture has been the introduction of new forms of primary production into the areas where they have been conducted.

In this way, poultry farming has been introduced into the exclusive wool district around Yass (N.S.W.), and the dairying district of Kyneton (Vic.). Dairying was commenced at Dimboola (Vic.), in the heart of the Wimmera wheat belt. Irrigation has led to cropping at Balranald (N.S.W.).

In many districts, mixed farming has been undertaken where formerly only one form of primary production was being carried on. Many of Australia's agricultural and economic problems are caused by this tendency to specialisation in agriculture. In the past, stability in rural industries has depended largely on the price obtained for exports of wool and wheat. Instability in wheat or wool prices can have very serious effects on individual growers and on Australia's economy.

With production in nearly all branches of primary produce inadequate to meet the needs of expanding population, greater stability can only be obtained where farmers do not rely solely on the sale of one product. By encouraging farmers to experiment with different forms of agriculture and to see what can suitably be grown in their district, the N.C.R.M. seeks to stabilize small and medium scale agriculture, increase production and at the same time benefit the farmers.

The concept of the "Family Farm", where different forms of primary production are carried out, offers a model that can well be applied and adapted to suit the conditions of existing farms.

It is not suggested that every farmer should commence the production of multiple forms of agriculture. It is suggested, however, that the argument advanced in some areas that only wool or only wheat can be grown in their districts is not always valid.

It is further suggested that, for small farmers, mixed-farming offers a more Christian approach to the land while at the same time assuring stability and economic independence. By introducing diversified production into their districts, N.C.R.M. members can help themselves and give a lead to others that can only result in increased production and the establishment of a more balanced agriculture in Australia.

CHAPTER XVII.

MIGRATION.

I. WE MUST BE CONVINCED WE NEED MIGRANTS.

II. TECHNIQUE OF SETTLEMENT.

III. ASSISTANCE.

IV. DIFFICULTIES.

V. ACHIEVEMENTS.

I. WE MUST BE CONVINCED WE NEED MIGRANTS.

In their Social Justice Statement on Migration, the Australian Hierarchy enunciated the principle that:

"People without land have a right to land without people."

The many compelling reasons why Australians should welcome migrants were clearly outlined.

If the N.C.R.M. is going to play its allotted task in developing rural areas, migration must be one of the foremost activities of every branch.

Group members must be completely convinced of the necessity for Migration. They must be prepared to do all they can to introduce migrants into their districts. Most of all, they must have a firm charity, helping the newcomers, overcoming all difficulties and not giving up when things go wrong. Experience has shown that, where there is sufficient Faith in God's providence, all things are possible.

II. TECHNIQUE OF SETTLEMENT.

From the varied experience of Groups all over Australia, a pattern of migrant settlement has emerged. The hardest task is to bring the first family into the district. If the initial step of putting all the preliminary talk into action is accomplished, the rest will follow.

Employment.

Employment for the wage-earner is the first problem to be solved. All types of migrants are available with varied skills and experience. From time to time in every community, there occur vacancies for bakers, mechanics, labourers, hospital wardsmen, domestics, cleaners, factory hands, mill hands.

Any one of these jobs may prove a suitable start for a migrant. Also, jobs on farms as workmen or share farmers can provide the new settler with sufficient income to get established.

The alternative to finding employment for single migrants and families in country towns and rural areas is to allow these people to herd into the cities, swelling the already bloated capitals, often at the risk of grave social and moral dangers to the new settlers.

Many N.C.R.M. Groups have undertaken to nominate a family and provide the wage-earner with work. Most farmers who do not employ a man full-time need help from time to time. By each farmer guaranteeing the migrant so many days work a month, they have ensured full employment for him.

Before long, if the migrant is a good worker, he soon finds employment in the district.

Regional Councils can sponsor Co-operative Land Settlement societies if money is available and include migrants in such schemes, e.g., Yackandandah Co-operative Rural Development Society, Upper Murray Region.

These, then, are the main sources of employment opportunities —

Skilled work in country towns.

Unskilled work.

Employment as farm-hand.

Share-farming.

Domestics.

Group guarantee of work.

Housing.

Once work is ensured, the next problem is housing.

In many instances, where farm employment is available, accommodation is available on the property. This is particularly the case when a single man is required.

Empty Houses.

Experience has shown that in some districts there are quite a few empty houses within a radius of ten miles of the town. One survey in the Murray Valley revealed 12 empty houses in various states of repair, close to the town. This is not an unusual state of affairs.

If in a district there are found empty houses where share farmers once lived, or where the former occupants have built a new home, or if there are homes on properties purchased by existing land-holders living on other properties, approach the owner and see if he is willing to rent the house to a new settler.

Purchase a House. At Yambuk (Vic.) the Group set up a Trust Fund to purchase an old stone cottage quite adequate for the purpose of providing a temporary home for the Dutch families they wished to bring to the district. As soon as possible, they found other accommodation and a permanent job for the family, thus making the house available for the next settlers. (One member of the Group at Yambuk even went so far as to divide his own home into two separate apartments). A similar project was established near Warwick (Qld.).

Today, these migrants are assimilated, buying their own farms, working on shares or in some other sound occupation. Australia is already benefiting from the sacrifices of our members in such districts as these.

Migrants Build Homes. The desire of migrant families to own their own home is very strong and many families settled in this way soon commence to build. At Horsham, Port Fairy, Geelong, Goulburn, the pattern has so often repeated itself. Once one family is settled and begins to prosper, they build or buy a home and then bring a brother, sister, or friend and their family out to Australia to live in the vacant house. The whole process very rapidly snowballs, once the initial step of finding accommodation for the first family is solved.

Thus, the main possibilities of finding accommodation for single settlers and families are:

Accommodation on property for single men.

Shearers' quarters may be useful as temporary accommodation.

Share-farmers' cottage, or empty houses.

Purchase a cottage to be used as a base.

Selection of Migrants.

From time to time, Headquarters sends out to all Groups a list of migrants, single and married, who are available for placement. The sources of these lists are:—

(i) Catholic Agencies' Resettlement Aid. (The C.A.R.A. Scheme.)

The persons on this list are recommended by the Catholic immigration authorities in the countries of origin and are guaranteed good Catholics and good citizens.

Fr. Maas' Dutch Settlers. The migrants who come to Australia under this Scheme are selected by the Catholic Rural Movement in Holland and, before reaching here, are given an intensive course of instruction on the conditions and social life of the Commonwealth. Only first-class farmers and market gardeners are selected under the "Fr. Maas' Scheme".

Requests from Families Already Placed. From time to time, migrant families already in Australia apply to the N.C.R.M. for help in bringing relatives and friends to the country.

III. ASSISTANCE.

The main type of assistance the new settlers need is simply friendship. By making them welcome and introducing them into the social life of the community, their new homes can be happy ones.

Co-operatives, especially Building Societies and Credit Unions, can be extremely helpful to any migrants considered worthy of help.

It is the little things the newcomers appreciate most. For example, giving them a lift to Mass on Sunday; inviting them to your homes; visiting them; helping with clothes for the children; letting them graze a cow for milk.

IV. DIFFICULTIES.

Although the settling of migrants in the country is difficult, it is worthwhile. Through migration, Australia can develop her natural resources, but this is not to be achieved without growing pains.

The most common difficulties to be faced in work of this kind are language difficulties; misunderstandings on both sides; cultural differences and often plain ingratitude.

There have been disappointments, but the overall picture is one of success, a fact that is evident to our Organisers when travelling around the countryside.

If the family you help decides to leave after a short time, try and take the broader view. If they go from one district to another, they are not lost to the country. If they go to the city, it is still better for them to be in Australia than be suffering want in their own countries.

Patience and understanding can overcome all difficulties and, with Faith in God, all things are possible.

V. ACHIEVEMENTS.

The Rural Movement's achievements in the field of migration have been encouraging, but far more can still be done.

Outstanding has been the example of a few N.C.R.M. members in the Port Fairy and Koroit parishes. Through their efforts, over 200 Catholic Dutch migrants have been settled.

In N.S.W., migrant families have been settled in many country districts notably Murrurundi, Maitland, Gloucester, Parkes, Yass, Binalong, Wagga, Albury.

At Horsham, in the Wimmera region, much help and assistance has been given to migrants. The Penola (S.A.) group has also been instrumental in placing various farming families on properties in the South East of the State as share-farmers and farm-hands.

No complete tally of the number of migrants settled by N.C.R.M. Groups and members can be made. The problem has been faced and a significant attempt made to settle individually many single men and women and families in the country.

The future of Australia will largely depend on what use is made of this great influx of people from many nations. While calling the attention of Governments to the need for concerted land settlement schemes to settle "Old" and "New" Australians on the land, the Rural Movement will continue to bring as many migrants as possible to the country.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE PRIMARY PRODUCE GIFT SCHEME.

I. NATURE OF SCHEME.

II. HISTORY.

III. ADMINISTRATION.

IV. ORGANISATION OF SCHEME.

V. AGISTMENT.

I. NATURE OF SCHEME.

The Primary Produce Gift Scheme is a highly successful project which was originated by farmers who wish to assist the work of migration and land settlement in a practical way. For example, by donating a calf to be reared for the use of prospective settlers, they hoped to help solve the problem of stock for any settlement undertaken by the N.C.R.M.

As well as assisting land settlement, the Scheme is designed to attract the interest and participation of Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

II. HISTORY.

Terang (Vic.) was the birth-place of the Scheme. Some soldier settlers who had had experience of a similar scheme operated by the Soldier Settlement Commission proposed a carefully thought out scheme to the Regional Council. After discussion and amendment, the basic constitution of the Primary Produce Gift Scheme was approved and submitted to the National Executive.

After close examination, the Scheme was recommended to all Regions. The Western Districts of Victoria, extending from Colac, Camperdown, Terang, Warrnambool, Koroit to Yambuk gave strong support from the beginning.

The project was taken up by the Campaspe, the Upper Murray Valley, the North-East (Vic.) and the West Gippsland Regions with conspicuous success. Agistment for over 100 head of stock donated by farmers in the Campaspe Valley has been provided in the North-East around Wangaratta. Gifts and distribution of stock have since spread to New South Wales and South Australia.

III. ADMINISTRATION.

The control of the Primary Produce Gift Scheme has been vested by the National Executive in a Central Committee, comprising representatives of all Regional Councils. The scope of the Scheme now covers all branches of stock and agricultural produce. The stock is allocated to settlers at a reduced rate on reasonable terms, viz. —

Sale price — not exceeding 75% of the estimated market price.

Period of payment — equal annual instalments over five years, the first falling due at the end of the first 12 months.

Interest — 2% per annum (flat rate).

This will enable settlers to become firmly established before having to repay the capital investment in stock. Any other contributions of money or kind are used strictly for promoting land settlement.

Regional Councils may make recommendations to the Central Committee, but final decisions on disposal and allocation are made by the Central body. This allows for the needs of any Region to be put forward while avoiding any dispute or unpleasantness that might arise if the stock were allocated by a local Committee. NEED is the chief criterion used by the Central Committee in deciding applications; competence and general suitability are, of course, considered, but religion, creed or nationality are not.

IV. ORGANISATION OF SCHEME.

Once a Regional Council or Group decides to make the Primary Produce Gift Scheme one of its projects, the first step is to canvass support among farmers. The following points should be put before them.

Talking Points.

- Farmers are asked:

- To donate one calf to help in land settlement.

- To provide agistment until the animal is required, or as long as they can.

- To contribute any other stock or primary produce they wish.

- To take an interest in any land settlement schemes sponsored by the N.C.R.M.

- They are guaranteed:

- The stock and all other contributions will be used solely for promoting land settlement.

- All project settlements will be open to both Australians and New Australians, irrespective of creed or religion.

- The stock will be allocated by the Central Committee wherever the need is greatest.

- The stock will be sold to settlers at a lower-than-market price, on reasonable terms.

- In the event of being unable to use the stock for land settlements directly, as a last resort the Committee may sell the stock and devote the proceeds to the same purpose.

Methods.

The best method of gaining support from the Scheme is through a personal approach. The experience in the Western Districts of Victoria has shown that most men when approached by a friend are pleased to help in settling others on the land in this way.

Other methods that have been used effectively are articles in the local paper about the Scheme and interviews in country sessions over Regional Radio Stations. Also by speakers putting the Scheme before Catholics after Mass on Sundays in neighbouring parishes, help can be obtained in areas where no Rural Group exists. Publicity inviting applications for assistance is good, and issues to persons on the basis of NEED, irrespective of religion, builds up goodwill.

In short, any means of interesting farmers in assisting land settlement should be tried. It should always be remembered that the Scheme is not limited to dairy and beef cattle areas. Contributions of sheep or other livestock can be used for the same purpose. In agricultural areas, some farmers have put in an extra acre of peas, potatoes or onions, the proceeds from which have gone into the Land Settlement Fund. The same applies in wheat areas.

V. AGISTMENT.

The problem of finding agistment for the stock is in the hands of the Regional Councils. The following methods have proved satisfactory so far.

The donor keeps the calf as long as he can, often until it is required.

Farmers in the district, who are unable to donate a calf, can often provide agistment for several calves.

Where conditions are dry in one Region, it is possible through the Central Committee to arrange for agistment in a nearby Region.

In the event of no Land Settlement Scheme being in operation at the time the stock reaches maturity, the stock is allocated to individual needy settlers under the same terms. **Cash loans** are made on a similar basis.

CHAPTER XIX.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

- I. OBJECTIVE.**
- II. COMMUNITY SETTLEMENTS.**
- III. INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENTS.**
- IV. SUB-DIVISION OF LARGE ESTATES.**

I. OBJECTIVE.

Pursuing its objective of settling people on the land, the N.C.R.M. has advocated three particular techniques of land settlement.

Community Settlements based on Co-operatives.

Individual settlement of Australians and migrants by means of farm labour and share-farming opportunities.

Sub-division of large estates for closer settlement.

In conjunction with these land-settlement schemes, other auxiliary projects are conducted. In this way, the Primary Produce Gift Scheme helps in providing stock for new settlers; through local Credit Unions, settlers help themselves with small loans, and the Federation of Credit Societies may help in capital loans.

II. COMMUNITY SETTLEMENTS.

The blue-print for large-scale land settlement has been developed in the light of experience gained in smaller community settlements at Maryknoll Community Settlement (Vic.), and the San Isidore Rural Housing Settlement at Wagga (N.S.W.).

This plan involves the utilization of land, finance and people through a series of Co-operative Societies enabling families to own their homes and farms.

Basic Features.

There are certain basic features about these proposed settlements:

Both Australians and migrants are eligible for selection.

Selection will be made entirely on ability to fit into the community pattern without reference to nationality or creed.

Agriculture will be based on intense cultivation and mixed farming.

Nature of Settlement.

The settlements should consist of a number of houses and shops in a small township; with a ring of farms surrounding them. By making the settlement large enough to enable small businesses to provide adequate service to the community, the needs of the settlers will be best provided for.

The type of farming undertaken will depend largely on the rainfall, type of soil, experience of farmers, markets and other factors. In general, it is proposed that intense mixed farming should be carried on in the settlement, thus providing largely for the needs of the local community and a variety of products for sale on the open market.

Once established, educational, recreational, postal and transport facilities can be provided, and the Religious needs of the settlers provided for.

Organisation.

Each settlement will be under the management of a Board of Directors of experienced persons. Preferably, the Society should be registered as a Co-operative Community Settlement Society.

The Board of Directors will appoint a permanent Secretary and will be responsible for the selection of the farming and building sites, sub-division, allocation of properties by ballot and providing for community services such as electricity and water.

The settlers will be encouraged to assume control of the community affairs gradually. Normal local-Government rule will be established as soon as the settlement is functioning properly.

Conclusions.

National Headquarters has negotiated with State and Overseas Governments for obtaining of land and finance for these large-scale community settlements.

Members and branches of the N.C.R.M. can assist in bringing these plans to reality by —

Assisting the Primary Produce Gift Scheme which has been set up exclusively for the purpose of providing stock and finance for land settlement.

Strengthening local Credit Societies and by forming Federations of Credit Societies.

Obtaining support for the policy of land settlement in the rural organisations and institutions; urging Parliamentary representatives and Governments to assist by alienating Crown land, by resuming land in special circumstances, e.g., to counter aggregation of holdings resulting in less than full use of the land; and by the extension of co-operative principles to Land Settlement Societies.

III. INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENTS.

The ideal pattern of rural life is one in which each farmer owns the soil he tills. The many evils of Australia's present system of land tenure make this impossible. While absentee landlords, high tariffs, monolithic agriculture, large undeveloped holdings and excessive prices for land restrict the availability of land, there is little hope for freedom of entry into agriculture.

The next best thing to people owning their own farms is to be working towards that end. From its inception, the N.C.R.M. has urged farmers to employ labour if they possibly can. By providing employment for share farmers or rural workers, farmers everywhere have made it possible for their employees to live on the land, to save, and eventually in many cases to purchase their own farms.

Members of the Rural Movement who were in a position to employ labour have done so in a spirit of charity that has benefited both themselves and their employees. In this way, they have given an eloquent example to their neighbours. Wherever they have been used, incentive payments and a share in profits have helped the employee speedily to obtain small farms of their own.

IV. SUB-DIVISION OF LARGE ESTATES.

Sub-division of large estates may be carried out by a State Government, a local Government Council, or by a Co-operative Settlement Society.

State Governments.

At present, it is not the policy of State Governments to resume large estates and sub-divide for purposes other than Soldier Settlement. Nothing will be done about civilian settlement until the strong spotlight of public opinion is brought to bear on the problem and it becomes a focus of attention the Governments of the day cannot afford to ignore.

While the vast majority of voters are concentrated in urban electorates, numerically, country voters will never be strong. The only possible way of highlighting the need for rural settlement is through the organisations of the countryside. Only the constant pressure of opinion from those organisations is likely to stir Governments into action. This task of keeping up the pressure from farmers' organisations and rural institutions could well be undertaken by N.C.R.M. members who realise the situation themselves.

Local Government.

The problem of Local Government Councils is a similar one. Under the Local Government Acts, Shire and Municipal Councils have the power to resume land, sub-divide and sell for the purposes of erecting housing or carrying on agriculture. Very often local Councillors are not aware of the wide powers of Local Government. If Regional Development is to become an actuality, Local Councils will have to take a greater part in developing the territory under their control.

By obtaining a copy of the relevant Local Government Act, and studying it, N.C.R.M. members can obtain a better knowledge of what Councils are empowered to do. By applying this knowledge to the needs of their Region, they should be able to make practical suggestions to the Council on projects that would be for the benefit of the people in the Region. At the same time, they should try to win support for such projects in local organisations.

The third alternative of sub-division through a Co-operative Settlement Society is only possible in States where a Co-operation Act exists.

Community Settlement.

Finance is the big problem in sub-dividing large estates. There is no reason why a group of men with limited capital cannot form a Community Settlement Society, pooling their resources by taking out investors' shares, then borrowing as much more capital as they can, and purchasing a large estate for sub-division. Each member would then take out Borrowers' shares and commence farming his portion of the sub-division.

In practice, the biggest problem will be in obtaining a loan from the Bank. Another problem is the selection of an area of semi-developed or undeveloped land suitable for closer settlement.

Practical Steps.

Any Regional Council or group of people who wish to investigate the possibilities of sub-dividing a large estate should:

Obtain a rough estimate of the capital they could obtain from investment by prospective settlers.

Approach Banks with a view to borrowing on that capital for an approved purchase of land, to be sub-divided between members.

Inspect likely properties, obtaining the advice of the District Agronomist, the Department of Agriculture, practical farmers in the district, or any other advisers.

Then form a Co-operative Community Settlement Society under the conditions of the State Co-operation Act, and apply for registration.

Once registered, submit the proposed areas selected for sub-division to the Bank for approval.

If approved, commence the task of sub-division, fencing, clearing, etc.

Depending on the location of any settlements undertaken in this fashion, it may be possible for the N.C.R.M. to facilitate assistance to settlers by way of long-term Housing loans from Permanent Building Societies in the Region.

CHAPTER XX.

SECONDARY AND TERTIARY INDUSTRIES.

I. A BALANCED LOCAL ECONOMY.

II. FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE LOCATION OF INDUSTRY.

III. THE SIZE OF THE FIRM.

IV. TERTIARY INDUSTRIES.

V. MARKET AREAS.

VI. PLANNING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

VII. APPENDICES TO CHAPTER.

- (1) Industries suitable for country towns.
- (2) Some market areas.
- (3) N.C.R.M. policy on decentralization.

I. A BALANCED LOCAL ECONOMY.

For effective decentralization, a balanced local economy embracing primary, secondary and tertiary industry is essential.

The heavy concentration of secondary and tertiary industries in the major cities does not accord with any inevitable law, consequently in many cases there is no reason why similar industries should not be established in country areas. Economically, maximum net profit is the ultimate determinant of location and this can be found out only by the process of trial and error.

Shortly, it can be stated that the location of industry is broadly influenced by the following conditions:

Primary Industry—natural resources, soil, vegetation, rainfall, temperature, labour, markets.

Secondary Industry—accessibility to raw materials, power, markets. Transport costs are the predominant factor.

Tertiary Industry—the services industries follow the pattern of population, catering for local demand.

Primary, secondary and tertiary industry may all be fitted into planned regional development. Under existing conditions, access to capital is the major determinant affecting primary industry development. Until Governments make it possible for persons with little capital to settle in new areas by providing land on easy terms and facilitating finance through guaranteed loans to Co-operative Societies, little expansion can be expected.

The establishment of secondary industry in country areas can assist effectively in increasing rural population and economic activity, and it will attract tertiary industries to meet the needs of the expanded industrial community. Favourable effects on farm expansion may also be anticipated as consumption centres grow.

The traditional location factors of accessibility to raw materials, power and markets have been offset to a considerable degree by the decentralizing factors of electricity, oil driven machinery, and transport. The public grid system has made electric power available to a major proportion of the population throughout the country, and motor transport has effectively bridged distances to markets.

Country towns should adopt an aggressive attitude towards establishing new secondary industries. Western Australia today is an example of how an adverse factor has been converted into a favourable one. Before World War II, West Australian industries could not compete in the Eastern States because of high transport costs. Since the war, Western Australia has experienced a large increase in migrant population and local industries have been established to supply the local market. Firms in the Eastern States find transport costs too high to enable them to compete for the sheltered West Australian market.

Country towns should exploit the transport factor as a shelter from metropolitan competitors, and thus offset any disability in production costs due perhaps to smaller, or less regular, operations.

First, however, country industrialists should understand the type of industry that is suitable for local operation, and they should have a good idea of the size of the local market available to them.

To exploit local opportunities, advantage should be taken of the Co-operation legislation to establish appropriate co-operative societies to engage in industrial and commercial undertakings, to mobilize local capital, and to achieve transport and selling economies.

Artificial advantages should also be sought in the form of such as special freights on rail transport, taxation concessions, and restraints against monopoly power of established, competitive undertakings.

II. FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE LOCATION OF INDUSTRY.

The factors which influence the choice of a centre of production are broadly as follows:

Factors which determine where transport costs involved will be a minimum.

Factors which account for production costs being lower at one place than another.

The location of production, in most cases, will be either at the source of raw materials or at the point of consumption, according to whether the raw material or the finished product is the more expensive to transport.

Sheltered Processing Industries.

Where there is a great loss of weight in manufacture, or where the raw material is very bulky or perishable and the finished product is compact and easily transported, production can be carried on economically near the source of the raw material. Examples include butter and cheese factories, wineries, jam factories, fruit and vegetable processing, lime kilns, sugar mills, wood pulping, distillation of oil from coal, flax processing, egg processing (powdering, drying, pulping). This group is particularly suitable for local operation.

Other Processing Industries.

This group includes factories processing primary products which can be transported easily either in the raw material or finished product stage. Therefore, factories can be placed where it is considered desirable.

Factors influencing actual location will include proximity to the chief market, the availability of power and water supplies, supply of labour and other economic considerations. Examples include tanneries, flour mills, sawmills and plymills, margarine factories, distilleries, metal refining, meat (killing and processing).

Sheltered Non-Processing Industries.

These industries enjoy shelter from all competition except that which arises locally, therefore they tend to concentrate near the market.

Fragility of Product, e.g., fibrous plaster, asbestos cement sheets.

Bulkiness of raw materials, products or containers which makes transport excessively heavy in relation to value, e.g., manufacture of aerated waters, motor repairing, general engineering, monumental masonry, furniture making, biscuit baking.

Perishability of goods, e.g., bread baking, ice-making.

Personal, urgent or purely local nature of services, e.g., dress making, tailoring, watch repairing, electro-plating, saddlery and harness making, boot repairing, dry cleaning, job printing and newspapers, motor repairing, house building.

Competitive Non-Processing Industries.

Products in this group have a freight advantage over imports from another area which would carry a high transport charge relative to the value of the goods. Large local markets are attractive, e.g., cement, bricks, tiles, glass bottles, fertilisers, some industrial chemicals, heavy castings, manufacture of tins, cans, household utensils from tin-plate.

In addition, the efficiency of the industry and the advantage of local raw materials may permit the international export of goods in competition, e.g., agricultural machinery, rope and canvas goods, wall boards, semi-finished steel and wire products.

Summary of industries suitable for local operation.

- (1) **Where raw materials are bulky or perishable and the final product is compact and easily transportable**, e.g., food processing.
- (2) **Where primary product raw materials and final product are easily transportable**, e.g., flour milling, tanneries, sawmills.
- (3) **Where local demand is to be served**, e.g., dress making, tailoring, boot repairing, house building, motor repairs.
- (4) **Where the final product is bulky, fragile, perishable**, e.g., bricks, furniture; fibrous plaster sheets; bread, respectively.
- (5) **Industries enjoying a competitive freight advantage as compared with goods produced in other areas**, e.g., cement, heavy castings.

A basic principle is that at the point of sale, the price should include the lowest possible proportion of transport costs.

As centres of local industry grow, various "external" economies arise, e.g., lower rail freight rates consequent upon a larger volume of goods handled; the installation of electricity; the availability of the services of specialists, e.g., public accountants, lawyers. Such savings in costs are additional to "internal" economies which arise within the business itself and which, in well run enterprises, should be sought fully. These internal economies arise from technical, managerial, marketing and financial factors the efficient handling of which results in costs saving and greater profits.

III. THE SIZE OF THE FIRM.

Planned regional development, based firmly on local resources, offers scope for the organization of businesses according to natural scale.

In most cases mentioned above, small and medium scale firms would flourish because the various processes lend themselves to that order. Where large size is demanded, it is preferable to organize a firm on a co-operative basis.

In 1952, Professor John Jewkes wrote in the "Economic Journal" (June, 1952, p. 251): "although conditions vary, it is still true for a larger part of industry that the maximum technical efficiency can be obtained by units which are relatively small".

In 1957, S. Moos showed in the "Economic Journal" (March, 1957) that the advent of automation does not mean the end of small and medium sized firms. He said:

"At the same time, 'large-scale enterprise' is no longer identical with the centralisation of a large labour force in a few giant production units; it can also mean the duplication and multiplication of a production process spread over a number of smaller production units. In fact, observations made in recent years support the view that automation does not require 'large size'.

"D. S. Harder, Vice-President of the United States Ford Motor Co., an expert in automation and co-creator of the term 'automation', has stated that automation might be used in all types and sizes of industrial concerns. 'The idea that only the very large, mass-producing industry could successfully use it, has been disproved again and again . . . Automation is more than transferring material from machine to machine, it is a new concept of manufacture . . . Instead of smaller plants going out of business, they will use more automation.' Diebold, another American expert, co-author of the term 'automation', and author of the standard book on the subject, stated that the appearance of flexible automatic equipment on the market would make it possible for smaller concerns to operate on an automatic basis and in many fields to compete with larger firms. New materials, such as plastics and light metals, will favour this process. Application of the new processes in small establishments ranges from fully automatic lines to partial automation of a single machine. . . .

"On the other hand, certain sections of industry will leave little or no scope for small-scale enterprise. For instance, industries based on the 'flow-concept' of automation are best suited for the large firm. These industries working with liquids, pulped solids, gases and energy, such as the oil industry, the electricity industry, modern breweries, paper, textile and flour mills, and certain sections of the chemical industry, require plant which is far beyond the means of the small firm."

In the latter case, co-operative ownership could prevent such processes from going under monopolistic control. Local initiative in mobilizing capital and managerial ability could ensure that processing industries remain on a decentralised basis.

Already in U.S.A., automated plants are being set up on a decentralised basis because the industry is no longer dependent upon large concentrations of labour. Locational factors of nearness to raw materials and to markets are gaining in strength.

Doboszynski, "The Economics of Charity" (1945), describes the branches of industry suitable for de-concentration. In the Textile Industry, containing huge factories, the machine has not grown in size; it has been multiplied. In the present state of technique, spinning, weaving and dyeing

could be done in small and medium sized workshops fitted with appropriate machinery. Finishing processes are more suitable for large establishments, e.g., co-operative workshops.

This principle could be spread to many industries utilising the multiplication of machines, e.g., clothing, shoes, hosiery, laces, millinery, toilet articles, household ware, pottery, furniture, prints, baking and confectionery, tinned food, electrical and wireless gear, watches, articles of small engineering, and chemical products — soap, pastes, shoe polish, etc.

The list can be extended to include the manufacture of bicycles and of motor car components.

The advantages which large firms have in regard to finance and, often, marketing, can also be availed of by smaller and medium sized firms organized as co-operatives.

IV. TERTIARY INDUSTRIES.

The tertiary (or services) industries provide the greatest scope for decentralised employment — but only on a base of primary and secondary development, for tertiary industries follow the pattern of population.

Tertiary industries, since the last century, have provided employment for at least 50 per cent. of the Australian work force. (A high percentage of the work force engaged in tertiary industries — at least 50 per cent. — indicates a high standard of living, for the basic material needs are being met with, generally, a smaller percentage of the total work force.)

Tertiary industries include transport and communication, building and construction, personal services (hairdressing, hotels, etc.), professional services (medicine, law, accountancy, etc.), commerce, retail and wholesale trade, entertainment, public service. These businesses lend themselves ideally to small and medium size firms.

If the primary and secondary industries can be expanded in a locality, tertiary industries will certainly increase particularly if the initial expansion is accompanied by a nett increase in population which could reasonably be expected if development is associated with the migration programme.

For example, the 1954 Census revealed the following distribution of employment in Victoria:

Total Work Force	1,044,437	= 100%
Metropolitan	678,337	= 65%
Country	366,100	= 35%

The distribution of employment in country areas was as follows:

Primary Industry	107,800	= 30%
Mining and Quarrying	3,300	= 1%
Manufacturing	69,200	= 19%
Tertiary Industry	185,800	= 50%
	366,100	= 100%

V. MARKET AREAS.

When planning a new industry, it is essential that the extent of the market be known at least approximately.

We have attempted to estimate market areas in rural Victoria and southern New South Wales on the basis of the 1954 Census. Whilst some overlapping between market areas doubtless exists, it is perhaps surprising that local market areas are quite large and offer scope for the establishment of local industries which are prepared to exploit local advantages of transport costs, raw material supplies, labour and capital supplies, etc.

Close contact between producer and consumer saves costs and offsets comparative manufacturing disadvantages (as compared with large city firms), enabling local producers to compete. There is tremendous scope for economies in marketing as evidenced by the fact that in modern capitalist economies the cost of actually producing primary and secondary goods, on average, is doubled in the process of placing them in the hands of the consumer.

Economies fully as large as those obtainable in manufacture can be obtained in marketing, for experience has shown in respect of modern centralised economies that as manufacturing costs decrease, distribution costs increase.

The appendix at the end of this chapter gives some selected market areas.

VI. PLANNING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

- (1) Survey and classify local natural resources, e.g., clay pits, saw-milling.
- (2) Assess the extent of markets for the product — local, "export".
- (3) Estimate capital required, and the possibilities of attracting sufficient local capital which certainly exists in most cases but which must be mobilized.
- (4) Assess the possibility of establishing co-operative societies to undertake finance, production, sales and distribution.
- (5) Explore the possibilities of effecting transport economies, e.g. —
 - (i) A co-operative society for carriage of raw materials and/or final products.
 - (ii) Railway freight concessions.
 - (ii) The scope for motor transport, which provides greater flexibility in marketing.
- (6) Assess the Labour Supply.
- (7) Assess the possibility of attracting other industries to the district as a consequence of new secondary development.
- (8) Estimate public facilities required, e.g., rail transport, water, electricity, housing. Decide on ways and means of obtaining these, e.g., representations to local member, municipal council, formation of co-operative housing societies.
- (9) Generate local interest in the project, e.g. —
 - (i) Municipal Council — to set aside developmental areas, at low rentals; establish preferential rating; provide facilities such as water.

(ii) Local primary producer associations, Chambers of Commerce, trade associations, trade unions, progress associations — give material and moral support for the venture.

(iii) Through public bodies and representatives, press for taxation concessions, e.g., special depreciation allowances, and price concessions re electricity.

Local authorities need to be convinced that artificial aids to local industries will eventually assist in a degree of economic development that will be substantially self-sustaining. (A similar situation is to be found in the tariff or subsidy system which protects local industries against foreign competition.)

Local authorities can do much to provide other attractions in the form of cultural and social amenities, e.g., libraries, sports facilities, meeting halls, schools, all of which attract people to a locality.

VII. APPENDICES TO CHAPTER.

Appendix to Chapter

(1) INDUSTRIES SUITABLE FOR COUNTRY TOWNS.

Selected production groups lending themselves to location in Australian towns.⁽¹⁾

1. Meat Processing Group.

Slaughtering.

Meat freezing, chilling, canning — manufacture of tin-plate and tin containers.

Preservation of edible fats.

Boiling down works: organic fertilisers, stock feed, chemicals from glandular products, soap, glue and gelatine.

Tanning — tanning materials, drugs, insecticides, pigments.

Footwear — accessories.

Leather goods — accessories.

2. Wool Processing Group.

Wool scouring — chemicals.

Wool carbonising.

Fellmongering.

Wool tops.

Woollen textiles.

Clothing.

Carpets.

Felt goods, hats, mattresses — bed springs.

3. Milk Processing Group.

Butter.

Cheese.

Casein.

Powdered Milk.

4. Fish Processing Group.

Distribution of fresh fish.

Fish canning — tin-plate and tin containers.

Organic fertilisers.

5. **Grain Processing Group.**

Grain and flour milling.
Breakfast foods.
Starch.
Cakes and pastries.

6. **Fruit and Vegetable Processing Group.**

Jam making.
Fruit canning and dehydrating—tin containers.
Vegetable canning and dehydrating.
Sugar making—sweets, etc.

7. **Flax Processing Group.**

Linseed oil, paints.
Stock feed.
Thread.
Cordage.
Linoleum.

8. **Timber Processing Group.**

Sawmills.
Prefabricated houses.
Veneer, furniture.
Cases and crates, matches, lasts, wood, wool.
Pulp mills.
Paper mills.
Paper board containers, paper bags.
Publishing, printing, book-binding, map-making.

9. **Building Materials Group.**

Bricks, tiles, pottery, clay sewerage pipes.
Plaster sheets.
Cement, fibro cement.

10. **Chemical Group.**

Glass.
Greases.
Adhesives.
Industrial scents.
Rayon.
Rubber reclaiming—rubber goods
Peanut butter, oil, margarine.

11. **Light Engineering Group.**

Sheet metal working.
Wireworking.
Jobbing engineering.
Panel beating.
Agricultural machinery repairing.
Motor vehicle repairing.
Tyre retreading.
Electro-plating.

12. **Skins — Hides Group.**

Tanning.
Boots and Shoes.
Fancy leather goods.
Luggage bags, etc.
Saddlery.
Rugs.
Hats.

(1) "New States for Australia" (Australian Institute of Political Science),
Ch. II" The proposed new State of New England", by Professor J.
MacDonald Holmes.

(2) **SOME MARKET AREAS(1)**

VICTORIA.

Outer Metropolitan Division.

Geelong	
Geelong City	49,000
Rest	49,700
	<hr/>
	98,700
Dandenong (excluding inner metropolitan area)	14,400
Mornington	37,200
Healesville	75,860
Gisborne	37,660
	<hr/>
	263,820

North Central Division.

Seymour	26,700
Castlemaine	21,550
Maryborough	12,190
	<hr/>
	60,440

North Eastern Division.

Benalla	21,400
Wangaratta	36,800
Albury	
Vic.	22,300
N.S.W.	39,900
	<hr/>
	62,200
	<hr/>
	120,400

Northern Division.

Bendigo		
Bendigo City	33,000	
Rest	18,700	
		51,700
Echuca		18,500
Kerang		16,900
Shepparton		47,400

134,500

Gippsland Division.

Warragul	22,800	
Morwell	49,600	
Leongatha	29,500	
Sale	24,600	
Bairnsdale	26,000	

152,500

Western Division

Ballarat		
Ballarat City	49,000	
Rest	21,600	
		70,600
Ararat		24,700
Hamilton		37,400
Warrnambool		50,600
Colac		23,600

206,900

Mallee Division

Swan Hill		
Manangatang		
Sea Lake		
Ouyen		
Mildura		
Wentworth		
		20,900
		10,400
		30,700

62,000

Wimmera Division

(Centred Horsham)	51,200	
(Sub-Centres: Dimboola, Warracknabeal.		

NEW SOUTH WALES.**Riverina Division**

Griffith	13,800	
Leeton	13,400	
Narrandera	4,400	
		17,800
Deniliquin		10,300
Lockhart		7,300
Tocumwal		7,700
Hay		3,900

60,800

South Western Division

Wagga	32,300	
Gundagai	14,500	
Junee	31,200	
Young	19,800	

97,800

Southern Tablelands

Goulburn	32,800	
Yass	19,600	

52,400

South Coast

Bega	19,000	
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(1) Total population. Estimates based on 1954 Commonwealth Census.
Figures shown represent population in an estimated natural market area.

(3) N.C.R.M. POLICY ON DECENTRALISATION.**A PRACTICAL PLAN⁽¹⁾**

THIS CONVENTION URGES that the following practical steps towards a policy of decentralisation should be implemented.

- (i) Immediate priority in public works expenditure should be given to the construction of new ports in the various States.
- (ii) The next priority in public expenditure should be the construction of road and rail links between these new ports and their agricultural hinterlands.
- (iii) The recommendations of the Utthwatt and Barlow Royal Commission (Great Britain) should be applied in the various States. This would involve a direct ban on building any new factories within a specified radius of cities over a certain size. This ban would be reinforced if it were accompanied by taxation incentives to industries establishing themselves along the rail and road links to the new ports.
- (iv) The necessary political and technical decisions should be made to ensure that electric power from new sources like the Snowy River Scheme should be exploited primarily for country areas and for the new ports and new industrial developmental sites in the decentralised areas.
- (v) When these measures are under way, the progressive decentralisation of public service departments whose activities lend themselves in particular to this policy, like the Education Department, Lands Department, Agricultural Department and Housing Commission, should take place.
- (vi) The development of agricultural settlement for Australians, both returned soldiers and civilians, and migrants in regions thus created around these focal points, should be proceeded

with to provide the agricultural base for an expanding Australian economy. The many millions of pounds which are being devoted to solving traffic and similar problems in capital cities might be invested with greater profit in settlement of the land.

- (vii) The expansion of agriculture and of country industries should be accompanied by the extension to these areas of the social and cultural amenities and the facilities for recreation with which the cities are so lavishly endowed.

(1) Resolution adopted at 16th National Convention, Canberra, 1956.

CHAPTER XXI.

SOCIAL CHARITY.

I. RURAL RETREATS.

II. CONSECRATION OF HOMES TO SACRED HEART.

III. HOLIDAYS FOR CITY MOTHERS.

IV. HOLIDAYS FOR CITY CHILDREN.

V. OTHER WORKS.

VI. CHURCH ACTIVITIES.

VII. CONCLUSION.

I. RURAL RETREATS.

Speaking to His Apostles, Our Lord said, "I am the vine, you are its branches; if a man lives on in Me and I in him, then he will yield abundant fruit". Through the call to action issued to us by the Bishops, we partake in the Apostolic labours of the Church. That is the essence of the Lay Apostolate "the participation of the laity in the work of the Hierarchy".

The more closely united to God we are, the more effective will be our labours for souls in the active arena of public life. To renew this spirit of dedication in members, the N.C.R.M. conducts Rural Retreats.

One of the best known retreats is held at Osborne's Flat in the parish of Beechworth (Vic.) in the Sandhurst Diocese.

The retreat at Osborne's Flat is held under canvas and men from the North-East of Victoria and from the Murray Valley spend the week-end in prayer and contemplation renewing their spirit each year.

Where enclosed retreats are not possible, Days of Recollection are frequently conducted, both for men and women. Such days are usually held at a School or Church centrally situated in the Region.

II. CONSECRATION OF HOMES TO SACRED HEART.

The Consecration of homes and farms to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus helps bring to the minds of the people the dependence they have on God's bounty.

It is fitting that we should constantly refer the gifts we have received, especially the fruits of the soil, to the Author of all life. By having homes and farms consecrated to the Sacred Heart, we publicly give thanks to God and at the same time weave the thread of Divine Grace into the fabric of our daily life.

At Penola in South Australia, it is customary to have one or two homes and farms consecrated on the annual field day, which is preceded by community Mass on the property.

(III) HOLIDAYS FOR CITY MOTHERS.

The Women's Section of the N.C.R.M. carried the following motion at the 14th Annual National Convention:

"The N.C.R.M. warmly endorses the work of the Grey Sisters in caring for needy mothers and urges all Groups to assist in providing holidays for these city mothers."

The idea behind this is obvious. The Grey Sisters in the course of their work meet many city mothers who are in great need of a holiday in the country. If the opportunity were provided even for a short break in different surroundings, it would be most beneficial to these hard-working mothers.

If any Groups or members are able to assist in this corporal work of Mercy, they should contact Headquarters for further details.

(IV) HOLIDAYS FOR CITY CHILDREN.

As a means of stemming the tide of young people from the countryside, the introduction of city children to country life for a short holiday can contribute in some small way. Already many children who have first tasted rural life as guests of Rural Movement members have been placed permanently in employment on farms through contacts made on such visits.

A steady stream of young lads make enquiries at Headquarters about opportunities of obtaining work in the country. As well as this aspect of encouraging youngsters to go to the country, a closer bond of friendship is established between country and city dwellers who too often suffer from their own forms of isolation.

By making a holiday available to children whose parents are engaged in the Lay Apostolate in industrial and civic life, N.C.R.M. members can show their close interest and appreciation of the work these valiant men and women are doing for Australia and the preservation of Freedom.

(V) OTHER WORKS.

The full litany of charitable works undertaken generally throughout the Rural Movement is too long to be outlined here. However, a brief survey of the other types of work being done may suggest lines for action in rural areas everywhere.

Weeding the Cemetery.

The custom of holding a working bee on All Souls' Day or some appropriate occasion, for the purpose of weeding the cemetery in small towns and villages, is growing. Especially this is so where no full-time attendants are appointed by the Cemetery Trustees.

Catechism Schools.

In Cororooke (Vic.) each year a school is held during the Christmas school holidays to teach Religion to country children who are unable to attend Catholic Schools. The Colac Convent of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan is kindly made available for the purpose and the children live there during their holiday.

Helping Neighbours.

One of the outward marks of a good Lay Apostle is his friendly assistance to, and co-operation with, his neighbours. The fostering of this attitude in a district may well prove to be one of the most important results of a Group.

Whether the assistance is in helping him harvest his crop, repair a fence, exterminate rabbits, remove noxious weeds, sink a well, or the other thousand and one jobs where help is appreciated, by showing willingness and promptness, N.C.R.M. members can (and have) set a glowing example to a whole district.

(VI) CHURCH ACTIVITIES.

A direct result of the workings of the Lay Apostolate should be the strengthening of the bond between priests and people. As Catholics realise more perfectly the role of the Church in their daily lives, there is a consequent increase in their activities to promote the cause of the Church.

Works undertaken by the Parish Priest should receive the whole-hearted support of parishioners particularly those engaged in the Lay Apostolate. Members are expected to aid their Pastor in any practical way they can, acting on building committees, arranging working bees, collecting firewood for the convent, running functions to raise finance.

(VII) CONCLUSION.

It has been possible to give only a brief mention to some of the projects being undertaken by Groups and Regions. If further information is required on any matters raised in the Handbook or any other queries, please write to —

The Secretary,
N.C.R.M.,
Box 373F, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Quotations.

Appendix 2. Constitution of the N.C.R.M.

Appendix 3. Rules of Debate.

APPENDIX I.

QUOTATIONS.

"Truly that which is required for the preservation of life's well-being is produced in great abundance from the soil but not until man has brought it into cultivation and expended upon it his solicitude and skill."

LEO XIII. "RERUM NOVARUM."

"From the collaboration of the laity formed in Catholic Action towards a deep realization of their noble mission, flow forth fountains of Grace and reserves of strength, which could hardly be sufficiently prized in the present time when threats are more numerous, needs multiply and the conflict between Christianity and Anti-Christianity grows intense."

PIUS XII. "STATE IN THE MODERN WORLD."

"Much will be asked of the man to whom much has been given; more will be expected of him, because he was entrusted with more."

LUKE 12. 48.

"It is fire that I have come to spread over the earth, and what better wish can I have than that it should be enkindled."

LUKE 12. 49.

"O let the earth bless the Lord; Let it praise and exalt Him above all for ever."

CANTICLE OF THE THREE YOUNG MEN.

"There is no sound tree that will yield withered fruit, no withered tree that will yield sound fruit."

LUKE 6. 43.

"The branch that does not live on in the vine can yield no fruit of itself."

JOHN 15. 4.

"And the grain that fell in good soil stands for those who hear the word and hold by it with a noble and generous heart, and endure and yield a harvest."

LUKE 8. 15.

"No one who looks behind him, when he has once put his hand to the plough, is fitted for the Kingdom of God."

LUKE 9. 62.

"In no other country are there so many Catholic organisations, working, without publicity, yet efficiently and effectively. Of these, because of the history and the needs of Australia, because of its very nature and function, the Catholic Rural Movement is either the most important or at least one of those which can claim this title. The Catholic Rural Movement deserves only the congratulations and the material and moral help of everyone."

HIS EXCELLENCY THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE,
MOST REV. R. CARBONI, S.T.D., J.C.D.

"Blessed are the patient, for they shall inherit the land."

MATT. 5. 4.

APPENDIX II.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL MOVEMENT.

(Constitution approved by the 16th National Convention, 26th April, 1956)

1. NAME:

The organization shall be styled "The National Catholic Rural Movement".

2. CHARACTER:

The N.C.R.M. is an organization which aims at the application of Christian Social Principles to the true welfare — spiritual, cultural, physical, social and economic — of Australia, and in particular to the rural population both farm and town.

3. GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

The general objectives of the N.C.R.M. are as follows:—

- (a) The restoration to the members of the Catholic rural community of a sense of their dignity as such and of the esteem in which the Catholic Faith holds the man on the land.
- (b) To bring country Catholics together so that they may discuss the difficulties which militate against the prosperity and stability of the rural communities.
- (c) To analyse these difficulties in the light of Christian principles and to see what practical remedies are suggested by those Christian principles.
- (d) To infuse into country Catholics the determination to work out practical remedies for those difficulties and practical plans for arresting the drift to the cities and restoring more people to country districts, and for strengthening rural industry in its primary, secondary and tertiary aspects, thus forming a truly Christian rural society.
- (e) To collaborate with other people and organizations advocating sound measures to assist in the reconstruction of rural life.

4. PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES:

The particular objectives of the N.C.R.M. are as follows:—

- (a) To assist in securing better conditions of life and work in rural areas and a just recompense for the vital economic and social services rendered by the rural population to the whole community. These objectives are to be secured by the spread of such institutions as rural co-operatives, credit unions, community farm settlements, rural education, co-operative rural medical services and whatever other means are appropriate to these ends.
- (b) To encourage and assist the rural population to obtain such technical knowledge, skill and craftsmanship as will be of use to them in their respective callings; to assist in promoting improved methods of agricultural production and marketing, a higher standard of proficiency in domestic economy and the increased practice of rural crafts and industries as part of a constructive policy of regionalism.
- (c) To form a well-instructed urban public opinion concerning the problems of rural life and the importance of these problems to the community as a whole and to secure the co-operation of urban consumers in solving such problems and in promoting the primary aims of the N.C.R.M.
- (d) To carry out the general work of Christian Social Action within the rural community.

5. ORGANIZATION:

- (i) The N.C.R.M. shall be organized in three main divisions:
 - (a) Parish Group.
 - (b) Region.
 - (c) National Executive.
- (ii) The **Parish Group** shall be the basic unity of the N.C.R.M. It shall concern itself with the organization of the people of the parish as a unit for the promotion of the objectives of the N.C.R.M. and shall have sufficient power of self-government to meet local requirements.
- (iii) The **Regional Council** shall be the directing body which, subject to the National Executive and to the authority of the Ordinary in each Diocese, shall co-ordinate the activities of all respective Regions and Parish Groups throughout the Commonwealth.

6. MEMBERSHIP:

- (i) Membership of the N.C.R.M. shall be open to all Catholics, male and female, who agree to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the N.C.R.M.
- (ii) While actual membership of the N.C.R.M. is confined to Catholics, all material benefits of the Movement shall be available equally to those not of the Faith.
- (iii) National Executive (which shall be composed according to 7.C.(iv) below) shall have power to expel any individual from the N.C.R.M. or to declare any subordinate body disbanded for conduct which it deems to be detrimental to the Movement.

7. GOVERNMENT:

A. THE PARISH GROUP.

- (i) The Parish Group shall consist of members of the N.C.R.M. in the parish, or in a section of a parish, where appropriate.
- (ii) No Parish Group shall be organised without the consent of the Parish Priest.
- (iii) The Group shall meet at least once a month and shall follow the program as laid down by the National Executive from time to time. This requirement of a monthly meeting may be dispensed with for sufficient reason by the Regional Council, or where there is no Regional Council, by the National Secretary.
- (iv) Any member of a Group who is absent, without an apology, from three consecutive meetings of the Group may lose his eligibility for membership of the Group or any office of the N.C.R.M. during the calendar year concerned.
- (v) All office-bearers within the Parish Group shall hold office for one year.
- (vi) The Annual Meeting and election of office-bearers of the Parish Group shall take place in March of each year.
- (vii) Each Parish Group must request affiliation from the National Executive which shall have power to accept or reject such a request.

B. THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

- (i) The Regional Council shall be composed of a Chaplain and three lay members from each Parish Group, the lay members being appointed for a period of 12 months; a regional Chaplain to be appointed at the discretion of the ordinary of the Diocese. The Regional Council thus constituted to have power to co-opt addi-

tional members. Office-bearers to be elected annually by the Regional Council as follows:—President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and other executive officers as found necessary from time to time.

- (ii) The functions of the Regional Council shall be:—
 - (a) To supervise the progress of Parish Groups throughout the Region.
 - (b) To receive regular reports of activity from individual Groups, to collate them and make them available to the National Executive.
 - (c) To plan the establishment of new Parish Groups throughout the Region.
 - (d) To arrange for Services throughout the Region which are sponsored by the National Executive.
 - (e) To arrange for the regular transmission of regional news to "Rural Life".
 - (f) To arrange Retreats and Days of Recollection throughout the Region and to support those already existing.
 - (g) In consultation with National Executive to arrange periodical demonstrations for all members of the rural community within the Region.
 - (h) To collaborate with other Catholic Social Action organizations in the Diocese.

C. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

- (i) The National organisation shall comprise:—
 - The National Executive.
- (ii) The National Executive shall be the supreme governing body of the N.C.R.M. It shall be the final authority deciding the policy of the Movement.
- (iii) The National Secretary of the N.C.R.M. shall be elected annually by the National Executive.
- (iv) The National Executive shall be composed of:—
 - (a) Episcopal Chairman.
 - (b) National Chaplain.
 - (c) Staff of National H.Q. comprising National Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Organizing Secretaries.
 - (d) Representatives of officially recognised regions as follows:—
 - Regional Chaplain.
 - Two lay representatives.
 - (e) Diocesan Chaplains.
 - (f) Such other persons as may be co-opted from time to time.
- (v) The National Executive shall meet quarterly under the presidency of the Episcopal Chairman or his representative.
- (vi) The functions of the National Executive shall be:—
 - (a) To instruct the executive officers of the Movement as to the administration of the Movement's affairs.
 - (b) To formulate the policy of the organs of the Movement.
 - (c) To control the activities of the Regional Councils and to issue instructions to them.
 - (d) To fix an annual rate of membership to the Movement, to collect all moneys resulting through whatever agencies it may specify, and to expend such moneys for any purposes necessary to the Movement.
 - (e) Any other matters incidental to 7.C(ii) above.
- (vii) The National Executive may set up, not necessarily from among its own members, Advisory Councils to act as advisers on any matter decided by the National Executive.

(viii) **Voting:**

Voting power shall be as follows:—

National Chaplain, 1 Vote.

Headquarters representatives, 1 Vote each.

Regional representatives, 1 Vote per delegate.

Diocesan Chaplains, 1 Vote each.

Individual members, 1 Vote each.

Episcopal Chairman or his representative, a casting Vote in the event of an equal division of votes cast as above.

8. **GENERAL:**

- (i) All officers of all governing bodies within the National Catholic Rural Movement shall be eligible for re-election.
- (ii) The National Executive shall act as the interpreting and amending body to watch over the working of this Constitution and to interpret its provisions where doubt arises. Notice of motion concerning any amendment or addition to the Constitution shall be given in writing at least three months before the meeting at which it is to be moved.
- (iii) The National Executive shall have power to make and enforce all by-laws necessary for the effective functioning of any organ of the N.C.R.M.
- (iv) The National Executive shall have power to appoint any sub-committee which it deems necessary and to delegate to it specified powers for a specified period.
- (v) The National Catholic Rural Movement shall not affiliate with any political party but may support specific proposals of any political party.

APPENDIX III.

RULES OF DEBATE.

STANDING ORDERS.

It is suggested that the following standing order of business be used as a guide for the conduct of meetings.

- 1. Reading and confirmation of Minutes of the preceding Meeting.
- 2. Correspondence.
- 3. Nomination and elections.
- 4. Reports — (a) Finance; (b) Executive; Other reports.
- 5. Discussion of motions on Notice.
- 6. General business.

RULES OF DEBATE.

- (a) Any member, desiring to propose a motion or an amendment, or to discuss any matter under consideration, must rise and address the Chairman. The right of speaking on any subject shall belong to him who first rises to address the Chairman.
No member shall speak more than once to a motion or amendment without the consent of the meeting. Any member proposing or seconding a motion shall be held to have spoken.
Any motion or amendment can be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the seconder.
When two or more members rise together the Chairman shall call upon the member who, in his opinion, rose first in his place. The mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply. No further discussion shall be allowed after the mover has replied.

- (b) All business shall proceed by way of motion which must be affirmative in character. All motions and amendments shall be placed in writing when directed by the Chairman.
- (c) No member, when speaking, shall be interrupted unless called to order, when he shall sit down, and the member calling to order shall be heard in support of his point, and the Chairman may at that stage decide the point or hear further discussion, but such point shall be decided before the debate is resumed.
- (d) A motion may be superseded at any time by another motion, "That it be discharged from the agenda paper" or "That the next business be proceeded with", being resolved in the affirmative.
- (e) Any motion or first amendment not seconded shall not be further debated, but shall lapse.
- (f) The question having been proposed may be amended by leaving out, substituting, or adding words. Any number of amendments may be proposed and discussed simultaneously with the original motion. Amendments shall be put to the vote in the reverse order to that in which they are received. When amendments have been put and lost the original motion shall then be put to the meeting.
- (g) No amendment shall be received by the Chairman which shall be a direct negative to a motion, or which amendment does not preserve the substance of such motion.
Any member, with the consent of the presiding officer, may offer an explanation of any particular expression used by him, but must confine himself strictly to such.
- (h) Immediately the debate on any question shall be concluded the Chairman shall put the question to the meeting in a distinct and audible manner. The question being put, shall be resolved in the affirmative or negative by the voices or by a show of hands, unless a division be demanded by at least five members.
No member shall enter or leave the meeting while a vote or division is being taken, and all financial members must vote, except on matters in which they may be personally interested.
The Chairman shall have a deliberate vote only on any question, but if, having exercised his deliberate vote, the voting is equal, he shall declare the motion lost.
- (i) No member shall speak on any motion after the same has been put by the Chairman.
- (j) When the Chairman arises during a debate, the member then speaking or proposing to speak shall sit down, so that the Chairman shall be heard without interruption.
- (k) It shall be competent by a majority of the members present for the meeting to suspend Standing Orders.
- (l) No member shall be allowed more than three minutes to speak on a motion unless with the concurrence of the meeting. The time of discussion to be limited to fifteen (15) minutes for each question, unless extended by resolution.
- (m) Any member dissatisfied with the Chairman's ruling may move a motion of dissent in the following terms: "That the Chairman's ruling be dissented from". In such cases only the mover shall be permitted to speak, except the Chairman, who may state his reasons for the ruling given. The motion shall thereupon be put to the meeting by the Vice-Chairman, without further discussion, in the following form: "The motion is that the Chairman's ruling be upheld".

- (n) No more than two (2) members shall speak in succession on one (1) side, either for or against any question before the meeting, and if at the conclusion of the second speaker's remarks no member arises to speak on the other side, the motion or amendments shall be put to the meeting after the mover has replied.
- (o) Any member shall have the right to move "That the question be now put" at any time during the course of debate.
- (p) A motion for the adjournment of any business or of any meeting may be proposed without discussion at any time during such meeting, and shall at once be put to the meeting by the Chairman. Such adjournment shall follow if carried by a vote of the members present.
- (q) Matters decided shall not be again entertained unless one month's notice of rescission is given.
- (r) Notice of motion shall be tendered to the Chairman in writing. Any notice of motion twice rejected shall not be discussed again for a period of six months.
- (s) A report containing a recommendation may be discussed on a motion being moved for its adoption which, upon being carried, will signify the will of the meeting thereon. If the report contains no recommendation, it shall be competent for a members to move a resolution arising out of and relative to the report to obtain the opinion of the meeting on the matter.